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Middle East Peace Conference Ends in Tokyo

OW1612124993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Countries involved in the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process agreed in two days of talks Thursday [16 December] to implement concrete projects in the region in such areas as arms control, environment and regional economic development. Foreign Ministry officials said the consensus was reached between representatives of 12 countries in the Middle East multilateral steering group.

Officials said it was agreed that multilateral working groups set up to discuss five themes—arms control and regional security, water, environment, regional economic development and refugees—should begin implementing specific projects.

Also in the meeting, Japan announced a contribution of 25 million dollars in emergency aid through international organizations to help improve the living standard of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The aid is the first part of a 200 million dollar package of assistance spread over two years that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged in September.

In a joint press conference after the end of the meeting, U.S. representative Dan Kurtzer said each of the working groups has "passed from an earlier stage in which they conducted seminars and fairly general discussions into a stage when actual projects are being concretized and getting off the ground."

Foreign Ministry officials offered such examples as a decision by the working group on environment to solicit candidates for pilot projects on waste water treatment facilities and approval by the working group on water of a pilot catchment system in Gaza.

The steering group, which was meeting to set the framework for the fourth round of multilateral peace talks scheduled for early next year, also agreed that the working groups should hold meetings in the Middle East region whenever possible.

They decided the working group on arms control and regional security will meet in Qatar, the one on refugees in Egypt, and those on water, regional economic development and environment negotiations in Oman, Morocco and the Netherlands, respectively. They agreed that the steering group itself should hold its next meeting in Tunisia, though no date was set.

Officials said the multilateral meetings may be held from around April or May after the religious holidays of the region.

Officials said the group called on Syria and Lebanon to join the multilateral talks. The two countries have refused to participate pending further progress in the bilateral track of the Middle East peace process.

"We greatly regret that Syria and Lebanon couldn't take part in our session and work of not only the steering committee but the working groups," Russian representative Victor Posuvalyuk told the news conference.

Japan

U.S. Pressure on Trade Practices Viewed

OW2212011593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0044 GMT 22 Dec 93

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, Dec. 21 KYODO—The United States Tuesday [21 December] stepped up pressure on Japan to open up its markets, warning frayed economic ties could unravel overall relations between the two allies.

Senior U.S. officials zeroed in on Japan's trade practices which Washington now views as the next big battle after having wrapped up global trade talks last week in geneva.

"It is now time to turn to the next critical trade issue—U.S. and Japanese economic relations," Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero said.

"The Clinton administration attaches as much importance to our economic relationship with Japan as it does to our close cooperation on political and strategic matters," she told a gathering of foreign reporters.

Number one on the agenda, she said, is the so-called "framework" trade accord, an ambitious initiative launched by the administration of President Bill Clinton to cut Japan's trade surplus and define a new economic relationship between the two countries.

U.S. and Japanese trade negotiators have held at least four rounds of talks since the framework pact was concluded in July but have made little progress, Spero said.

The principal sticking point, according to both Japanese and U.S. officials, is a continuous dispute over U.S. insistence to set up numerical benchmarks to measure the access of foreign goods and services in Japan.

The U.S. contends that the level of foreign penetration in the Japanese market is low by the standard of industrialized countries, and numerical benchmarks are needed to see whether Japan is moving toward the "norm."

Within the U.S. administration, there appear to be differences of opinion on whether those benchmarks, once written into an agreement, will become formal Japanese commitments and enforceable under U.S. trade laws.

"We want to have benchmarks. We are not setting them as actionable targets," Spero said.

Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshevsky said last week that "all agreements, or arrangements, or measures" the United States concludes with Japan are enforceable under U.S. trade law.

Officials from Japan and the United States must settle their differences under the "framework" accord by February 11 when President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa meet in Washington to review the agreement.

"We have to redouble our efforts between now and February 11 so that our leaders will have something substantive to discuss," Spero said.

While Spero focused on the framework dispute, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor Tuesday took Japan to task for the lack of increased sales of foreign-made computers to Japanese Government agencies.

Kantor said the Japanese Government must take "immediate actions" to boost the purchase of foreign-made computers and gave a veiled warning that Washington May take trade action against Tokyo unless "tangible progress" is made.

At issue is a bilateral computer trade agreement the two countries concluded in January 1992 that calls for the expansion of Japan's public-sector procurement of competitive foreign computer products and services.

According to Kantor's office, U.S. industry data show the share of foreign firms in the Japanese national government market for computer products—including mainframe, office computers and workstations but not personal computers—declined from 4.0 percent in 1991 to 3.7 percent in 1992.

At the same time, the share of foreign computer firms in the Japanese public-sector market as a whole was said to have gone up from 6.6 percent in 1991 to 8.9 percent in 1992.

U.S. trade officials contend that the gain was due largely to increases in purchases of foreign computer products by quasi-government entities in Japan.

"In view of the fact that Japanese quasi-government entities were able to substantially increase their foreign purchases in one year, there is considerable room for improvement by Japanese national government agencies," Kantor said.

UN Chief Concludes Visit Activities

Discusses UN Permanent Seat

OW2112063193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0557 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali reiterated Tuesday that there is "no relation" between Japan's bid to become a permanent Security Council member and its participation in peacekeeping operations of the world body.

"There is no relation between the permanent seat at the Security Council and participation in peacekeeping operations," Butrus-Ghali said in an address to the UN Association of Japan.

He said he wished to "reassure" Japanese public opinion on that point.

Butrus-Ghali, who will leave Japan on Wednesday after a five-day stay, was reiterating remarks he made Monday to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa that a military role is not a prerequisite for permanent membership in the Security Council.

"On the contrary, you will take the decision, but the fact that you take the decision does not imply at all that you will be asked to participate in the implementation of this decision," he said.

He was referring to the fact that peacekeeping operations have to be approved by a majority of Security Council members, including all of the permanent members.

Butrus-Ghali further noted that during the first 40 years of UN history the permanent members were expressly expected not to participate in peacekeeping operations so they would not exert their "influence" over the operation.

While Butrus-Ghali did not repeat earlier remarks to Hosokawa and Japanese reporters that he personally supports permanent membership for Japan, he made clear his high regard for Japan's role in the world body.

"Since its admission to the United Nations in 1956, no other nation has given such a central place in its foreign policy to the purposes and principles of the United Nations," he said.

Butrus-Ghali called Japanese financial support for the UN "crucial." Japan is the second largest contributor to the UN's regular budget after the United States.

Rejects Taiwan Membership

OW2212051293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Wednesday ruled out membership for Taiwan in the United Nations.

"We cannot admit Taiwan as a member of the United Nations," Butrus-Ghali told reporters at the Japan National Press Club ahead of his visit to China next week.

Referring to a 1971 General Assembly resolution which ousted Taiwan from the U.N. and gave its seat to the communist government in Beijing, he said, "we consider that Taiwan is an integral part of China."

"This is the position of the international community," the U.N. chief added.

Butrus-Ghali, who left Tokyo on Wednesday afternoon to go first to South Korea and then to the North, was underlining the U.N. position on Taiwan in advance of a subsequent two-day visit to Beijing that he said is aimed at "reinforcing" ties between the U.N. and China.

Taiwanese Premier Lien Chan said earlier this year that Taipei hopes for separate membership within three years.

Taiwan, regarded by Beijing as a renegade province since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, has mounted a diplomatic campaign to persuade U.N. members to back its bid.

It has recently been wooing Central American and Caribbean states, seven of which earlier this year tried in vain to have the General Assembly reconsider the issue of Taiwan's reentry.

Taiwan has formal diplomatic relations with 29 countries.

Leaves for South Korea

OW2212051693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali left Tokyo on Wednesday afternoon for South Korea, the second stop of a four-nation Asian swing.

After two days of talks with South Korean leaders, Butrus-Ghali will travel to North Korea and China.

Economic Agency: Regional Economies Stagnant

OW2212081893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Regional economies remain stagnant, particularly in major urban areas along the Pacific coast of central Japan, the Economic Planning Agency said Wednesday [22 December]. The agency said the report was based on a survey of economic trends across the nation in December.

The survey showed that mining and industrial production in October declined from the previous month in most areas, with output in major urban areas around Tokyo and Nagoya staying below the nationwide average, the agency said.

Consumer spending was stagnant, with sales at large retail stores in October remaining below the year before level, excluding those in Shikoku, the Tohoku region and Okinawa, it said.

Automobile sales in November remained slow, except Hokkaido and the Chugoku areas where sales grew over the year before, the agency said.

Housing starts, however, recovered substantially in many areas although they posted a decline in the Tokyo area, the agency said.

DA Official on East Asian Military Situation

OW2212020193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0104 GMT 22 Dec 93

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan considers the current military situation in East Asia to be as tense and insecure as it was during the Cold War.

New Defense Agency chief Kazuo Aichi warned senior Self-Defense Forces (SDF) officers in his December 6 inaugural speech that North Korea has "challenged" the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world by pursuing a suspected nuclear arms development program.

It is a view echoed by Yasunari Ito, a senior military strategist at the Defense Agency [DA]. "The agency views East Asia as being cloudy and insecure militarily," he said in an interview.

"China and Southeast Asian countries are, in addition to the North Korean nuclear issue, expanding their military capabilities, along with Russia which has sufficient military forces to deal a strike," he said.

However, Ito does not believe that China and Southeast Asian countries pose an immediate threat to Japan's security.

Tension between North and South Korea is a bigger threat. The North Korean Armed Forces, made up of 30 divisions of one million troops, combined with 620 naval ships and 810 military aircraft, compare with South Korea's 22 divisions of 550,000 troops, together with 25,000 marines, 220 naval vessels and 470 military planes, sources close to the Agency said.

U.S. military forces, comprising 37,000 troops and 80 military planes, are stationed in South Korea to protect the country in the event of an attack, the sources said.

The simmering rift on the Korean peninsula has recently been fueled by the North's suspected nuclear arms development program and its successful test-firing in May of a Nodong 1 missile with a range of 1,000 kilometers. The missile is capable of hitting western Japan.

For China's part, Beijing has rapidly modernized its military forces and has increased its Navy. The country is also a nuclear power with intermediate and long-range missiles.

China boosted its defense budget to 32.52 billion yuan (about 5.8 billion dollars) in 1991, up 61.9 percent from 1986 and increased it again in 1992 and this year.

Altogether, China has roughly three million military personnel together with 7,500 to 8,000 tanks, at least 850 coastal ships, more than 45 surface submarines and about 880 air force units, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Russia remains a major military power in East Asia, despite the breakup of the Soviet empire, and combines 29 divisions of 290,000 forces, about 70 naval warships, about 75 submarines and about 1,430 operational military aircraft in East Asia, the sources said.

"Of course, East Asia has changed politically. But, almost nothing has changed militarily since the Cold War period," Ito said.

But Tetsuo Maeda, a Japanese military expert, rebutted Ito's view. "The Defense Agency is trying to make use of military expansion in Asia as a means of increasing Japan's military expenditure and capabilities," he said.

He referred to Japan's future role in East Asia, saying the SDF is ready to contribute to U.N. peacekeeping operations within the context of the Constitution.

The December 2 resignation of then Defense Agency chief Keisuke Nakanishi has sparked a controversy over whether Japanese participation in U.N. peacekeeping missions contradict the Constitution.

Nakanishi was virtually forced to resign after his remark that he is in favor of amending the pacifist Constitution to allow expanded participation by the SDF in U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Prof. Tomoyuki Kojima of Keio University, an expert in East Asian and Chinese affairs, says, "Japan should make a greater contribution to security in Asia in cooperation with the United States."

Kojima said Tokyo and Washington should help build up confidence in East Asian security by stepping up dialogue with the 17-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mexico's Salinas Concludes Visit Activities

Rules Out U.S.-Cuba Mediation Role

OW2212044693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said Wednesday his country will not play any mediating role in normalizing relations between the United States and Cuba at least in the short run, officials said.

They said Salinas made clear Mexico's position on the U.S.-Cuban face-off in a meeting with Yohei Kono, president of the largest opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Salinas ruled out the possibility of Mexico brokering normalization talks between Washington and Havana but expressed hope that Mexico will anticipate a thaw in U.S.-Cuban ties, LDP officials said.

Kono signaled his willingness to accept Salinas's invitation to visit Mexico, the LDP officials said.

LDP's 38-year grip on power ended in August when Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition government was established.

Salinas is ending a four-day Japan visit Wednesday afternoon.

Offers Assurances on NAFTA

OW2212085893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari departed Japan on Wednesday [22 December] after a three-day visit.

Salinas, who left Haneda Airport on a special flight, met Tuesday with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata.

Among other things, he offered them assurances that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will not become an exclusive regional trading bloc.

Tokyo Observers Report on Russian Elections

OW2212104893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japanese observers who monitored the December 12 Russian parliamentary election in Moscow and Khabarovsk submitted a report on their mission to Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Syozo Azuma said Wednesday [22 December].

Azuma, who headed the Japanese delegation, told a press conference that the report will also be sent to Russia and Russia's Central Election Administration Committee.

Azuma said the Russian election was carried out freely and fairly in the areas monitored by the Japanese observers.

He said, however, that there is room for improvement in technical areas concerning the system of managing the election and the method of carrying it out.

At the request of Russia, Japan sent a 15-member group, including Diet members, to Moscow from December 7 to 18 and another six-member group to Russia's Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk from December 6 to 17.

The monitors observed election campaigns, voting at the polling stations and the counting of ballots.

Japan and Russia agreed on the dispatch of election observers when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited Japan in October.

No Impact Seen From Russian Nuclear Dumping

OW2212093193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Russia's dumping of liquid nuclear waste did not have any impact on marine life in the Sea of Japan, the government said in an interim report Wednesday [22 December].

The Maritime Safety Agency, the Meteorological Agency and the Fisheries Agency jointly conducted the survey at 14 sites in the Sea of Japan shortly after Russia dumped 900 tons of low-level liquid nuclear waste at sea in mid-October some 550 kilometers west of Hokkaido.

Judging from preliminary results, however, fish and other seafood analyzed were not more contaminated by radiation than in previous surveys.

The samples were taken from Japanese fishing grounds, which are some 200 kilometers away from the dumping site. A survey of the area close to the site is expected to be carried out in cooperation with Russia and South Korea soon, but not before mid-January, officials said.

A spokesman for the Russian Pacific fleet told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the fleet does not intend to resume nuclear waste dumping in the near future or to ask Moscow to issue a relevant permit.

A scheduled second dumping in October was canceled following international protests, especially from neighboring Japan and South Korea, over the danger of contaminating the environment.

Despite the halt to dumping other potential risks remain, the spokesman said. The fleet has reportedly passed its storage capacity for liquid nuclear waste and the tankers carrying the dangerous cargo are outdated, he said.

In talks with Russian officials and experts on the nuclear waste issue on Tuesday, Japan basically agreed it will supply a tanker to help Russia over the storage bottleneck.

"If this is realized, I think we can avoid the resumption of dumping for the time being," the spokesman said.

Inspectors Find Mold in Thai Rice Shipment

OW2212121793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Inspectors have found that some of the rice imported from Thailand to help cover Japan's poor rice harvest is moldy and discolored, Food Agency officials said Wednesday [22 December].

The mold was found on part of 3,000 tons of rice in sacks unloaded at the port of Maizuru in Kyoto, they said.

The ship, carrying a total of 6,000 tons of rice, left Bangkok on December 6 and arrived at Maizuru last Saturday, several days behind schedule because of rough seas caused by typhoons.

It began to unload the first 3,000 tons of rice Monday, the officials said. The remaining rice is scheduled to be unloaded at a port in Toyama Prefecture.

The agency believes that the mold grew after water dropped onto the cargo from the cover of the ship's hold.

Food Agency inspectors also found Tuesday discoloration on sacks containing several tons of rice unloaded December 12 at a port in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture, agency officials said.

The agency will carefully examine the load, they said.

The moldy or rotten rice will be either used for making bonding paste, livestock feed, or disposed of but will not be used for human consumption, the officials said.

The Thai rice is part of 200,000 tons of rice Japan plans to import by the end of the year for use in processed foods.

Japan also plans to import an additional 900,000 tons of table-use rice from Thailand and the United States.

Foreign rice has been coming into Japan since last month for emergency imports because of this year's disastrous rice harvest following an unusually cool and wet summer.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, on the other hand, announced Wednesday there was nothing wrong with the Thai rice it had examined.

The metropolitan government had inspected Thai glutinous rice purchased by a Tokyo wholesaler after being unloaded at Kobe on November 19, officials said.

The Tokyo government's research laboratory of public health had checked the rice for 54 kinds of poisonous agents, including agricultural chemicals, heavy metals and mold-related poisons, they said.

The institute detected traces of bromine and cadmium, but the levels were far below standards of the Food Sanitation Law. Similar checks will be carried out once a month, the Tokyo officials said.

Poll Shows Drop in Hosokawa Cabinet Support Rate

OW2212015393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—The support rate for the cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has plummeted by 10 percent within the past month and now stands at 60 percent, a major national daily said Wednesday.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN said a poll showed the disapproval rate of Hosokawa's cabinet also increased to 21 percent in December from 12 percent in November.

The poll, taken on December 19 and 20, covered 3,000 eligible voters of whom 75 percent responded.

The daily cited dissatisfaction over Hosokawa's agricultural and economic polices as reasons for the sharp decrease in public support for the cabinet.

According to the ASAHI, the downturn in support is especially strong among people engaged in farming, fishery and forestry. The approval rate for the cabinet among people in those categories fell to 46 percent, down 20 percent from the month before.

The support for the cabinet among self-employed people and those in commerce and industry fell by 14 percent to 57 percent, the ASAHI poll showed.

On December 14, the government decided to lift a decades-old ban on imported rice by accepting a proposal to partially open Japan's rice market as part of a global trade deal.

Under a formula set out by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Japan will have a six-year moratorium before lifting the ban, during which it will accept imports amounting to between 4 and 8 percent of its consumption.

MITI Official Naito Pressured To Resign

Former Colleagues Offer Support

OW2212044993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—A senior Trade Ministry official under pressure to quit over a controversial promotion received support Wednesday from former colleagues, including a Diet member.

The seven former colleagues of Masahisa Naito, including House of Representatives member Tatsuo Sato, met Vice Trade Minister Hideaki Kumano to express their support for him.

Sato said later that Kumano told him he "understood the point well."

Naito, head of the ministry's Industrial Policy Bureau, has been urged to quit for promoting Yasufumi Tanahashi to a newly created post shortly before Tanahashi quit to stand as a candidate in the general election for the lower house in July.

The promotion was regarded as benefiting his election campaign, though he failed to win a seat.

Trade Minister Hiroshi Kumagai said Tuesday he wanted Naito to quit because of "enforcement of official discipline."

Naito has refused, saying ministers traditionally do not intervene in personnel matters.

Naito Submits Resignation

OW2212072793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—A senior trade ministry official has submitted his resignation amid a growing dispute over a controversial promotion, International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai said Wednesday [22 December].

Masahisa Naito, director general of the ministry's industrial policy bureau, handed in his resignation Tuesday night to the vice trade minister, Kumagai told reporters. The resignation takes effect Friday.

Last Thursday, Kumagai urged Naito to resign for promoting more rapidly than usual Yasufumi Tanahashi, a son of former vice trade minister, to a special post of planning officer shortly before Tanahashi quit the ministry to run for a House of Reperesentatives election in July.

Naito decided to resign voluntarily in order to help avoid further confusion in the ministry, Kumagai said.

Vice Trade Minister Hideaki Kumano will hold Naito's post concurrently for the time being, Kumagai said.

Minister Kumagai Comments

OW2212121493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan's trade minister on Wednesday [22 December] said Masahisa Naito will resign his post on Friday as Industrial Policy Bureau director general at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Kumagai said at a press conference that Vice MITI Minister Hideaki Kumano will concurrently hold the post of Naito, who has been regarded as the most likely candidate to succeed Kumano. He handed in his resignation Tuesday night.

Kumagai had urged Naito to resign on grounds of favoritism in promoting a junior when he served as director general at the MITI minister's secretariat.

Kumagai said, "this is not punishment but Naito's voluntary resignation of his own will."

The trade minister suggested, however, that he effectively forced Naito to submit his resignation over the controversial promotion.

"Not a little tremble and a feeling of suspicion have prevailed within the ministry as a mysterious document was circulated and a criminal accusation was filed (in the wake of the promotion)," Kumagai said. "If this situation was left to chance, the ministry would have been kept from proceeding with smooth operation."

In December of last year, Naito promoted Yasufumi Tanahashi, a son of a former vice trade minister, to a hurriedly-created special post of planning officer shortly before Tanahashi quit the ministry to run in July's lower house elections.

Kumagai called the promotion strange, noting that the case involved a relative of the then vice trade minister and Naito, who was in a position to have practical control over personnel affairs.

At a separate press conference, Naito said he could not understand nor accept Kumagai's reasons for demanding his resignation, saying, "the promotion in question followed MITI's conventional practice."

Naito questioned why he was now urged to take responsibility for an incident that occurred last December. He said he decided to resign voluntarily in order to avoid confusion in the ministry arising from the case.

"Returning to a principle of a civil servant to serve the whole nation, any moment of administrative stagnation is impermissible," Naito said, citing the current severe economic situation and urgency for pump-priming measures.

At another news conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura showed his support for Naito's resignation, saying, "I understand the final judgment made by responsible Trade Minister Kumagai."

At the same time, Takemura said this was an unusual case.

"This is a rare case and it is impossible that the bureaucracy is reshuffled whenever the political power or a minister changes," he said.

Diet Heads Urge Resumption of Reform Debates

OW2212095793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—The heads of the House of Representatives and House of Councillors agreed Wednesday [22 December] to ask the ruling seven-party coalition and the opposition to resume debates on political reform bills pending in the upper house by the year-end.

Lower house speaker Takako Doi and upper house President Bunbei Hara reached the agreement to break the deadlock over the issue, parliamentary sources said.

"I will ask the ruling and opposition parties to promptly enter substantial deliberations by the end of the year," Hara reportedly told Doi, who agreed with him, the sources said.

Hara conveyed the call to executives of the ruling and opposition parties, they said.

The Political Reform Headquarters of the coalition decided to open a session of the Special Committee on Political Reform of the upper house Friday even without the participation of the major opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), party officials said.

The coalition and the opposition adjourned a meeting of heads of the House of Councillors Diet Policy Affairs Committee around noon after they failed to reach an agreement to resume debates on political reform bills.

In the meeting, the LDP demanded the coalition apologize for extending the Diet session. The ruling parties refused.

The government's reform package, designed to shake up Japan's corrupt political system, passed the lower house November 18 but no substantial debate has taken place in the upper house yet because of LDP opposition.

The ruling coalition forced an extension of the current Diet session for 45 days beyond its originally scheduled December 15 close until January 29 to try to ensure passage of the government bills in the upper house, on which Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has staked his job.

The package seeks to replace multiseat constituencies for the lower house with a system combining single-seat constituencies and proportional representation, as well as tightening curbs on political fund-raising.

The LDP has insisted priority be given to measures to stimulate the economy over political reform.

The LDP and the Japanese Communist Party have boycotted Diet debates since last Thursday in protest at the extension of the Diet.

MAFF Says Grain Self-Sufficiency Remains Low

OW2212105593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan's self-sufficiency in grain stood at 29 percent in fiscal 1992, unchanged from the previous year and way below that of the United States and most European nations, the government said Wednesday [22 December].

The figure was roughly equal to that in the Netherlands, which was 28 percent, according to a supply-demand table on foods tallied by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF].

In the fiscal year that ended March 31, self-sufficiency in rice was 101 percent, the highest among grain crops, reflecting the nation's ban on rice imports and a moderate harvest last year, the table showed.

Per capita rice consumption maintained a downward trend that began in fiscal 1962, falling 0.3 percent to 69.7 kilograms.

Measured by calories, the overall food self-sufficiency rate was also unchanged at 46 percent in fiscal 1992 as was the self-sufficiency in agricultural products, which stood at 65 percent.

Among foods with a high self-sufficiency rate were eggs with 97 percent and vegetables with 90 percent.

But the rate was low in wheat and beans, standing at 12 and 6 percent, respectively.

Corporate Earnings Drop in Jul-Sep Quarter

OW2212085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japanese corporate earnings continued to deteriorate for the July-September period amid the prolonged slump in the overall economy, the Finance Ministry said in a quarterly corporate business report Wednesday [22 December].

Combined pretax profits in the reporting quarter dropped 21.6 percent from a year before on an all-industry basis, stretching the string of declines to the 13th quarter.

The drop compared with a smaller 5.6 percent year-on-year decline registered in the April-June period.

The latest reading attests to the increasing severity of economic conditions in Japan, a ministry official said.

Combined sales scored the sixth consecutive quarter of year-on-year declines, falling 2.5 percent while operating profits decreased 16.2 percent, the 10th successive drop, the ministry said.

Corporate capital spending slid 15.8 percent for the seventh year-on-year quarterly fall in a row, it said.

The survey covered 23,621 firms with capital of 10 million yen or more, excluding financial institutions. Of the total, 19,986 firms or 84.6 percent replied.

Speaking before a press conference, the ministry official said the downswing in the latest earnings report does not accurately explain the reality of a broader macroeconomic activity in Japan.

As an example, the official pointed out a 0.5 percent growth in Japan's gross domestic product for July-September from the preceding quarter.

Investment and other business activities are still under adjustment by "taking a step forward and then backward" but this does not mean the overall economy plunged into a double-dip recession, the official said.

In the latest reporting quarter, companies' combined operating profit fell 16.2 percent from a year ago, suffering a drop for 10 quarters in a row.

Sales decreased 4.3 percent for manufacturers and 1.7 percent for nonmanufacturers.

Of manufacturers, food makers saw larger sales but sales dropped for those making petroleum, coal products, steel and transportation machines.

Among nonmanufacturers, sales increased for service sectors and construction firms. But retailers and real estate firms scored smaller sales.

In terms of pretax profit, manufacturers saw a 27.7 percent decline and nonmanufacturers a 17.3 percent drop.

Among manufacturers, steel companies suffered a sharp 132.7 percent pretax profit fall and transportation machinery makers a 52.2 percent drop.

Plant and equipment investment dropped 21.1 percent for manufacturers.

Capital spending by nonmanufacturers slid 12.8 percent, deteriorating further from a 2.2 percent drop in the January-March quarter and a 7.6 percent fall in the April-June period.

Corporate demand for services, particularly services related to office buildings, is shrinking, affected by slack construction of such buildings, the official said.

Ministry Survey Shows Business Confidence Drop

OW2212094793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Major Japanese companies saw poorer business for the October-December period but predict some improvement for the quarters ahead, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday [22 December] in a quarterly survey.

The survey showed that the business sentiment index of major companies for the October-December quarter fell from minus 18.6 in the previous survey to minus 21.8, the lowest level on record.

Large-scale manufacturers posted minus 26.7, down from minus 22.5, and major nonmanufacturers scored minus 17.9, down from minus 16.0.

A ministry official, briefing reporters, described the overall figures as suggesting "stagnancy" rather than further declines, pointing to a recovery among medium-sized companies.

The index for these companies came to minus 27.1, up from minus 28.2, with manufacturers recording minus 35.2 percent, down from minus 28.8, but nonmanufacturers minus 24.5, up from minus 26.5.

In the quarterly survey carried out in November, the ministry polled 9,436 companies.

Based on the responses, it compiled the index representing the percentage of those answering "poorer business" for a given period subtracted from the percentage of those responding that business had got better or would improve.

Looking ahead, the official said the survey showed "expectations for a pick-up" with business sentiment improving across the board.

The business sentiment index for major companies came to minus 6.6 for the January-March quarter next year and to plus 5.6 for the April-June quarter.

Medium-sized firms scored minus 17.7 and minus 4.1, and smaller firms posted minus 24.7 and minus 16.2.

Meanwhile, the survey indicated that companies are unlikely to step up labor adjustments, the official said.

Waning labor conditions have become the major concern of the prolonged economic recession.

The index of shortage minus excessive labor at major companies came to minus 19.6 for the quarter ending in December, worsening from minus 12.7 for the quarter ending in September in the previous survey.

But the figure improved to minus 17.7 for the January-March period and to minus 8.7 for April-June.

As for smaller firms, labor remained in short supply especially for nonmanufacturers, with the overall index at plus 1.5 for the end of December, and the trend is expected to continue with the index at plus 1.1 for the end of January and 4.6 at the end of June.

Considering corporate earnings, the survey showed that pretax profits for all companies posted a year-on-year 14.9 percent rise in the April-September first half of the current fiscal year.

Pretax profits are expected to drop 13.2 percent for the current fiscal year.

Sales in the first half of the next fiscal year are expected to increase 1.3 percent, after falling 2.4 percent in the current year.

New Economic Panel To Hold First Meeting 22 Dec

OW2212101993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—A new panel set up by ministers and leaders of ruling coalition parties to discuss economic problems centering on tax cuts will hold its first meeting Wednesday evening [22 December], government sources said.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will head the panel, which includes Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai, Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato, and Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency.

Leaders of the coalition parities are also included, the sources said.

The committee was established at the urging of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa who wants to form a consensus on the proposed income tax cuts and on the policy for compiling the budget for next fiscal year.

When Hosokawa proposed the creation of the panel on Tuesday, some coalition party members did not immediately agree because Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura announced the plan to the press before consulting with the parties, according to the sources.

But with the cabinet secretariat apologizing about the procedure at a meeting of the coalition parties' leaders on Wednesday, the committee was formally approved, the sources said.

Panel Proposes Postal Deposit, Bank Rate Link

OW2212120393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—A Finance Ministry panel on Wednesday [22 December] proposed that postal deposit rates be linked to rates offered by private financial institutions as a condition for liberalizing rates on demand deposits.

The proposal came in a report on liberalization of rates on demand deposits submitted by an advisory study group of the ministry's Banking Bureau.

The report calls for the liberalization of rates on ordinary and savings deposits as "the final stage" following the freeing of time deposits in June.

But "in order to avoid postal deposits from blocking the free setting of private-sector rates, establishment of rules sufficiently respecting private-sector decision on demand deposit rates is appropriate," the report says.

It calls for a "benchmark of a common product" for such rules.

Private banks have levelled the criticism that individual depositors are flocking to state-run postal accounts that carry "unfairly" high rates and are increasingly seeking to beef up settlement functions to match those of private demand deposits.

Rates on regular postal accounts are about 1.1 percentage points higher than those on private ordinary accounts, and postal deposits amount to some 30 percent of Japan's personal deposits market.

Against this backdrop, the report stresses "total balance with private financial institututions to avoid fund shifts" as did a report submitted in October by the ad hoc commission on administrative reform, an advisory panel to the prime minister.

As for current deposits, the Finance Ministry panel recommended against liberalization because such services as fund transfers and check settlements must be maintained.

For the same reason, the panel said rates on ordinary deposits must be regulated completely or set at low levels if their settlement functions increase as funds flow into savings accounts.

As for the timing in implementing the proposals, a ministry official said concrete dates are still uncertain, but adoption within 1994 is already agreed.

Based on the report, the Finance Ministry is to begin discussions with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, and the official said they will be "tough."

Meanwhile, the panel left room for some delay by expressing concerns over nonperforming loans at financial institutions.

The ministry should be "vigilant at the point when rate liberalization on demand deposits coincides with the period when effects of the problems of nonperforming loans at financial institutions on stability of our nation's economy and financial system are feared."

The banking industry gave a cautious welcome to the Finance Ministry panel's proposal and voiced hopes that the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will agree on specific rules to review the postal savings system.

Tadashi Okuda, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, praised the report for ruling out liberalization of interest rates without touching on the postal savings system.

"I really hope that the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will reach agreement on private sector- first rules so that the postal savings system will not become a price leader," Okuda said.

Takashi Tanaka, chairman of the Regional Banks Association of Japan, said that the report reflects his association's demands that liberalization of interest rates on demand deposits with settlement function be carried out separately from those on savings-oriented demand deposits without such function.

Tanaka reiterated that it is a must to establish rules requiring the postal savings system to follow the private sector and expressed hope that interest rate liberalization will be implemented in a step-by-step manner.

There has been a steady shift of funds to the postal savings system from private banks as interest rates on postal savings accounts are generally higher than those on bank accounts.

Because of this, private bankers have been pressing on the Finance Ministry to rectify the interest gap.

North Korea

Ministry Spokesman Views 20 Dec Talks With U.S.

SK2212044193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, answering a question put by KCNA about a recent DPRK-USA contact in New York, said today:

There was a contact between the DPRK and the USA in New York on December 20 concerning the nuclear problem.

At the contact, the DPRK side made a counter proposal to the proposal put forward by the U.S. side on December 10.

The DPRK side's counterproposal has reasonable suggestions for smoothly solving the nuclear problem.

The U.S. side said it would study the DPRK side's counterproposal and notify the DPRK of its position later.

We will watch the attitude of the U.S. side.

KCNA Reports Government Invites UN Head To Visit

SK2212110593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—The UN Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, will soon pay an official visit to Korea at the invitation of the DPRK Government.

Pyongyang Radio on Upcoming Visit

SK2212122593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1210 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] His Excellency, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus- Ghali will soon pay an official visit to our country at the invitation of the DPRK Government.

KCNA Calls Sanctions U.S., Japanese 'Scheme'

SK2212110493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Undisguised Schemings of 'Economic Sanctions'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—Some quarters of Japan and the United States are now getting on the nerve of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, openly claiming that if "economic sanctions" were taken against North Korea by the United Nations, outflow of Japan-resident Koreans' money and technology to it must be stopped." [no opening quotation mark as received] according to reports.

This fully reveals the criminal scheme of Japan and the United States to have "economic sanctions" taken by the United Nations over the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the DPRK. This fact indicates that the moves of the hostile forces to stifle the DPRK have entered a very dangerous stage.

We cannot overlook such very ill-boding moves of theirs which have become all the more undisguised when the "tough stand" toward the DPRK is surfacing in the United States over the "nuclear problem."

At a time when the hostile forces are intensifying the international plots against the DPRK, while crying for an "international cooperation system," the Japanese authorities are calling for the UN-sponsored "economic sanctions" and "stop to the outflow of money," alleging that the DPRK uses the "money and technology" from Koreans in Japan in the "development of nuclear weapons." This naturally put us on our guard. Their allegation is really a groundless, false propaganda and a despicable behavior for realizing their intention.

We have stated more than once that we have never developed nuclear weapons. So, their allegation is a preposterous lie and the "outflow of money" itself is nothing but a false rumor.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese authorities are now charging the DPRK with this matter, motivated by a criminal scheme to suppress the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and Koreans in Japan, push ahead with their dangerous design to turn Japan into a military power and arm it with nuclear weapons and, furthermore, gratify their desire to stage a comeback to our country. Lurking behind this is also a crafty intention of Japan to gain a "position of a political power" in the international arena by partaking of the settlement of the DPRK's "nuclear problem."

The United States is egging the Japanese authorities on to check the "outflow of Japan-resident Koreans' money," while calling for "economic sanctions" by the UN Security Council. This clearly shows that though it said it hoped for a negotiated solution of the nuclear issue when it sat at the negotiating table with the DPRK, it is, in actuality, seeking to stifle the DPRK through the UN-sponsored "economic sanctions" under the pretext of the nuclear issue.

If the United States set in-motion "economic sanctions" of the United Nations by all means, hand in glove with Japan, it would be held wholly responsible for the grave consequences entailed therefrom.

The Japanese and U.S.authorities must clearly see the trend of the time and stop acting rashly.

North UN Representative Gives Human Rights Speech

SK2212091593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Our country's representative delivered a speech about the human rights issue at the third committee of the UN General Assembly on 3 December. After referring to the past efforts of the United Nations and the international community to protect and improve human rights stipulated in the international pacts on human rights, he pointed out:

Even today, when the Cold War has collapsed, racism, racial segregation, national exclusivism, military intervention and occupation, and foreign domination and rule continues as ever in various regions of the world. Such acts of infringement have a negative effect on the peace, security, and economic and social development of the regions concerned and the rest of the world.

National, religious, and ethnic confrontation and conflict of various countries cause social and political instability in those countries, deprive a large number of people of their right to existence, and generate millions of refugees. What is even more serious is that some countries have placed political and economic pressure and military intervention against other countries at odds with their policies and political view.

Such a grave development urgently demands that the United Nations and the international community double their efforts to protect and improve human rights as well as basic rights. To protect and improve human rights and basic freedom, priority should be given to the following issues:

First, to resolve the issue concerning human rights impartially and objectively, human rights issues should not be used for political purposes. The principle on respecting a nation's sovereignty, a principle on nonintervention into the internal affairs in the promotion of international cooperation in resolving human rights issues, should be thoroughly observed. Double standards should not be applied.

Neither should certain countries attempt to apply pressure and their political view upon other sovereign countries under the pretext of protecting human rights, nor should they form new organizations and institutions to intervene in internal affairs.

Second, to fully protect human rights on a national and international scale, human rights and basic rights should not just be legally stipulated and protected, but also actually practiced and enjoyed.

For all citizens to fully and equally enjoy political, economic, social, and cultural rights, countries and societies concerned should enhance their ideological, conscious, and cultural level and undertake policies and measures to remove unemployment, disease, illiteracy, and crime. International measures should be taken to ensure the development rights [palchongwon] of countries.

Third, precedence in resolving the human rights issues should be regulated according to the specific characteristics of each country and region. In developing countries, priority should be given to realizing rights to existence and rights to development. In regions and countries where economic, social, and cultural inequality exist, priority should be given to removing inequality so that all citizens enjoy human rights and basic rights equally.

Fourth, a genuine democracy should be realized on a national and international scale to smoothly resolve human rights issues. Democracy should conduct politics for the popular masses, serve their interests, object to aggression, intervention, and domination by other countries, and respect each country's sovereignty. Democracy should be based on the ideology and moral view centered on the human beings.

Clearly removing the past crimes against mankind is an important factor in preventing the infringement on human rights from recurring.

On 25 August, the 45th conference of the UN subcommittee for the discrimination prevention and protection for minority races decided to investigate the wartime human rights infringement committed by the former Japanese Government and army. It also plans to submit a final report, including actual materials based on investigation results and legal analysis, to the 47th conference of the UN subcommittee.

It is a well-known fact that the previous Japanese Government took away approximately 200,000 Korean women for the comfort women for the Japanese army and took away approximately six million Korean people by force. Regrettably, the Japanese Government is still making desperate efforts to cover up its crimes. The DPRK delegation has urged that Japan thoroughly investigate the truth behind the issue of Korean comfort women for the Japanese army, make public its results, punish those responsible for the Korean comfort women, make an official apology, and take a sincere measure for compensation. This will also be beneficial to the Japanese.

The United Nations should play a due role in getting Japan to clearly liquidate its past crimes in keeping with the interests of the international community.

In the popular masses-centered DPRK which regards the chuche idea as a guideline, various measures and policies have been implemented for citizens to enjoy all their rights and freedom. Under the legal guarantee of the state, all people are provided with all the necessary conditions for satisfactorily enjoying political, economic, social, and cultural rights and freedom. They enjoy all social benefits, including free medical treatment and free education, and live without worrying about future.

Our people will make all efforts to further consolidate and develop the system of our own-style which was chosen according to their own confidence and constructed with their own strength. The DPRK will positively contribute to protecting and improving human rights and basic rights on a global scale by faithfully implementing its international duty as a member of the international community.

Committee Statement Denounces Kim Yong-sam 'Clique'

SK2212111793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued a joint statement today denouncing the anti-national, anti-democratic and anti-reunification crimes committed by the Kim Yong-sam clique under the cloak of "civilian politics."

The joint statement says:

Although it is nearly one year since the emergence of a new "civilian government" in South Korea, nothing has changed and South Korea is still under the old colonial domination policy and in the "civilian" fascists' dark political era.

This clearly shows that the "democratic politics" and "reforms" loud-mouthed by the South Korean ruling quarters are nothing but a deceptive slogan to whitewash the colonial fascist rule and lull the anti-"government" struggle of the people in South Korea.

When taking office, Kim Yong-sam said that "no ally can be better than the nation." But he has committed treacheries against the nation, sticking tighter to the policy of dependence on outside forces than his predecessors.

It is the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique that entreated the United States to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers, which had been suspended by its predecessor, taking issue with the fictitious "nuclear development" of the North, that devised such system of dependence on outside forces as "international cooperation system" to do harm to fellow countrymen and laid hurdles in the way of the DPRK- USA talks for the solution of the nuclear problem, and that totally opened the South Korean rice market to the United States at the sacrifice of the interests of the farmers and other people.

In relations with Japan, the present ruler of South Korea wiped off the slate the thrice-cursed atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists in the past including their crimes in the case of the "comfort women for the Army" and unilaterally declared economic opening to Japan at the expense of the dignity and interests of the nation.

Behind the facade of the "civilian rule" of Kim Yong-sam, the puppet police, the backbone of the repressive forces, has been drastically reinforced and the method of repression has become more vicious, something unbecoming to the "civilian" signboard. The people have not benefited by the "reforms" or by democracy.

In the "unification policy" the Kim Yong-sam "government" has made a retreat from the position of its predecessors and totally frozen the North-South relations, turning them into relations without dialogue from those with it, and strained the situation of the country to an extreme extent.

The Kim Yong-sam clique turned down the North-proposed exchange of special envoys between the North and the South and has completely broken up the dialogue and cooperation between the Northern and Southern authorities which had been kept going even under the dictatorship of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics," raising a hue and cry over the fiction of "suspected nuclear arms development" of the North.

It committed anti-reunification acts by blocking at the point of the bayonet the North-South student talks and the holding of the Fourth Pan-National Rally in Seoul planned on a nongovernmental level.

Worse still, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique has brought the North-South relations to the brink of war, crying for "military countermove" against the North.

The "civilian" veil of the present ruler of South Korea has been wholly torn off in less than a year.

We hold that the South Korean people and students should continue their struggle against the rice market opening and punish the traitors forsaken by the people and the nation.

Only one way is open to the South Korean rulers—the way to their grave.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Gift to Hero

SK2112105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, sent a birthday table to Yi Hak-mun, twice hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on his seventieth birthday.

Yi Hak-mun greatly contributed to the operations and combat victory of combined units by conducting valiant reconnaissance activities as commanding officer in charge of reconnaissance and performed feats in killing, wounding or capturing more than 580 enemy soldiers and destroying tens of tanks, trucks and guns during the fatherland liberation war (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953).

Comrade Kim Chong-il had him participate in the national meeting of heroes, awarded the military title of general of the Korean People's Army to him and saw to it that he may keep the flower of revolution in full bloom in his advanced age, too, in a historical museum of the fatherland liberation war.

Article by Officer Praises Kim Chong-il

SK2212113693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article titled "Leadership of Comrade Supreme Commander is Source of Invincible Might of Our Revolutionary Armed Forces" contributed by Colonel of the Korean People's Army Han Po.

Noting that there has been no time in the history of the development of the Korean revolutionary Armed Forces full of victory and glory when the might of the People's Army was so enormous and the victory and achievements in the completion of the cause of Army building were so great as today, the author of the article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"The leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il has brought a new turn in the building of the revolutionary Armed Forces, too."

The might and invincibility of revolutionary Armed Forces depend on the greatness of a leader.

The might of the Korean revolutionary Armed Forces is, immediately, that of the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, and it is the lifeline and decisive guarantee for the existence of our People's Army and all its victories.

What is most important in the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in guiding the revolutionary Armed Forces of Korea to victory is that he clearly indicated the way of the People's Army in each period and each stage by putting forward a most correct program of Army building.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who is constantly developing and enriching the chuche-based idea of Army building of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has set forth a policy of modelling the whole Army on the chuche idea in compliance with the lawful demand of the development of the Korean revolutionary Armed Forces.

Advancing the great program of modelling the whole Army on the chuche idea, Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il has also given answers to all the theoretical and practical questions arising in its implementation.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in recent years has given precious teachings on further strengthening and developing the People's Army in keeping with the demand of the developing revolution in Korea.

What is important in his leadership is also that he has intensified party's political education in the Army so that the political and ideological superiority of the revolutionary Armed Forces could be constantly brought into full play.

The ideological and moral state of the soldiers of the Korean People's Army is very good now.

The entire soldiers of the People's Army are closely united around our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il in ideology and purpose and in morality and sense of duty with the unshakable resolution to share the destiny always with him.

Under his guidance, a chuche-based system of Army command centering around the leader has been thoroughly established in the People's Army today.

It is based on the soldiers' firm resolution and high consciousness to uphold Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty and filial piety.

What is important in the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is also that he is steadily developing the chuche tactics and building a modern defense industry to increase the military technical might of the People's Army in every way.

Our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il has further developed the chuche-based tactics created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song in compliance with the demand of modern warfare and has given wise guidance so that all units and soldiers may apply it skillfully.

At the same time, he has founded a powerful defense industry suitable to the demand of modern warfare to steadily improve the arms equipment of the People's Army and turned the whole country into an impregnable fortress.

It is the highest honour and greatest pride of the Korean people and the People's Army soldiers to make revolution under the guidance of Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great military genius and an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander.

ROK Farmers 'Struggle' Against Kim Yong-sam

SK2112232793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 20 Dec 93

[By station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "The Nation-Selling Traitors Must Be Given A Trial"]

[Text] The struggle by the South Korean people of various classes and strata against the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique's traitorous rice market opening is now bursting into eruption like a volcano.

According to reports, on 18 December, which the Pan-National Emergency Committee for Thwarting the Rice Market Opening had announced as the Day of the Third National Practice for Protecting Our Rice, some 5,000 youths and students held a rally and demonstration in Seoul protesting the nation-selling opening of the rice market.

Being seized with great indignation at the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique's opening of the market of agricultural products, students held a two-hour rally at a city park on that afternoon, and rushed toward the American Embassy in Seoul and the central government building of the puppet government, while shouting the anti-U.S. slogan, "Yankee, go home," and upholding placards reading, "We oppose becoming slaves of food."

Almost at the same time, a protest rally and following demonstration were held in Chinju, South Kyongsang Province. About 2,000 farmers and citizens participating in the rally and demonstration determined to prevent the rice market opening, and demanded that the puppet authorities hold a referendum on the rice market opening issue.

Meanwhile, that same day, some 100 students of the College of Animal Husbandry of Konguk University staged a demonstration at the Tapkol Park in Chongno-ku, Seoul, with some 50 roosters with anti-rice import and anti-U.S. slogan bands on their necks. They appealed to citizens to join their demonstration.

The struggle against the rice market opening is being held not only in Seoul but also in almost all cities and rural areas in South Korea, including South Kyongsang and North Cholla Provinces. It is being held not only by farmers and students but also by a broad range of people in various classes and strata, including workers, religious people, dissident figures, professors, and politicians.

The struggle is being held on a large scale. Hundreds or thousands of people and sometimes 20,000 or 30,000 people join a rally. The struggle is also held in various forms and ways, such as demonstrations, rallies, and firing a scarecrow or a straw bag—a symbol of the import of rice.

The ever-intensified struggle against the rice market opening in South Korea is an explosion of the people's grudge and resentment against the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique that sold the national dignity and cruelly infringed upon the six million farmers' right to existence. It is also an expression of the South Korean people's firm and resolute will not to forgive the puppet clique's treachery to the country and the nation.

As you know, South Korea's rice market opening issue is very serious and vital to the existence of South Korean farmers, the destiny of agriculture, and the people's existence.

If the rice market is opened and foreign rice surges in, South Korean rice, which has weak competitiveness, will be pushed out, and farmers will become unable to continue.

According to reports, when the U.S. surplus farm products surge into South Korea after the rice market is opened, South Korean farmers will suffer as much as $62.3 billion loss by 2000, and millions of bankrupted farmers will rush into cities. South Korean agriculture, which depends on a paltry economy and outdated technology, will not avoid general bankruptcy. This will influence the overall economy, and the economy and people's life will be reduced to the greatest misery.

This is why the South Korean people have so strongly opposed the rice market opening, and the traitor Kim Yong-sam availed himself of the people's demand to acquire the presidency by committing the people to meet their demand. However, he backed down on the commitment as worthless and decided to generally open the rice market. Thus, the South Korean people faced by a crisis started the struggle against his decision. This is natural.

It is very just for South Korean people to stage anti-government struggle and to give vent to their anger, saying that the rural areas are going to be ruined.

Being embarrassed with the mass protest, the Kim Yong-sam clique is now busy resorting to trickery in order to calm down popular unrest. They are making a noise while mentioning certain measures and a cabinet reshuffle. All this, however, is nothing but a ridiculous scheme aimed at covering their treachery to the country and the nation and deceiving people to weaken their struggling spirit.

As shown by the procedure of the rice market opening, traitor Kim Yong-sam is a flunky nation-seller who is more vicious than preceding dictators and a filthy national betrayer who does not hesitate in making fellow countrymen fall victims to outside forces in return for his own safety and power.

The nation-selling Kim Yong-sam clique, which is leading the South Korean people to death by opening the rice market, will inevitably be given a stern trial by the people.

The South Korean people's struggle against the rice market opening is a patriotic struggle to protect millions of farmers' rights to existence and the national interests. Thus, the South Korean people's struggle of justice will continue and lead the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime to destruction.

Paper Emphasizes Ideological Revolution

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[NODONG SINMUN 20 December editorial: "Let Us Accelerate Socialist Construction by Giving Definite Priority to the Ideological Revolution"]

[Text] The entire country is now filled with the heightened enthusiasm of all the people who are unanimously participating in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 21st Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee.

At the plenary meeting, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, based on his scientific analysis of the historical experiences in socialist construction in our country and the practical demands of our revolution, gave a programmatic instruction to score new revolutionary upsurges in socialist construction by consistently carrying out the ideological revolution. In hearty response to the respected and beloved leader's instructions, all the party members and workers must continue to thoroughly implement our party's policy on the ideological revolution, wage the struggle to conquer both the ideological fortress and the materialistic fortress, and fully demonstrate the superiority and invincible vitality of the socialism of our own style.

Vigorously carrying out the ideological revolution is a work vital to the destiny of socialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: When we strengthen the ideological revolution, indoctrinate the popular masses in a revolutionary manner, and build the powerful main forces of the revolution, can we successfully carry out socialist construction and strongly defend the socialist cause under any circumstances.

The development of a socialist society and its destiny depend on the popular masses armed with socialist ideas. A key to achieving single-minded unity in the entire society lies in strongly arming the people with socialist ideas, and a basic key to accelerating economic and cultural construction lies in making the popular masses highly demonstrate their creativity and enthusiasm.

As historical experiences show, no matter how powerful a country's military strength and massive economic potential, it will not be able to defeat the imperialists' antisocialist offensives and will collapse unless it strengthens the ideological revolution and strongly arms the popular masses with independent ideas.

The ideological revolution is a key to socialist construction. Vigorously carrying out the ideological revolution is our party's consistent policy. Our party has consistently carried out a policy to give definite precedence to the ideological revolution over all the other works since it started leading revolution and construction.

The history in which our party has led the cause of the socialism of our own style to victory is a history in which it has adhered to the chuche-oriented theory on ideology and endlessly deepened and developed the ideological revolution. Only when we continue to vigorously carry out the ideological revolution, can we further consolidate single-minded unity among our revolutionary ranks, score great revolutionary upsurges in socialist economic construction, and fully demonstrate the invincible might and vitality of the socialism of our own style.

Today, more vigorously carrying out the ideological revolution is the practical demand of our revolution. At its plenary session, our party, based on its deep insights into the practical demands of our country's socialist construction, set an adjustment period of two to three years to put forward a strategic policy of directing primary efforts to agriculture, the light industry, and foreign trade.

To thoroughly implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy, we must further strengthen the strong single-minded unity of our revolutionary ranks among the party and the leader [suryong] and, to do so, highly demonstrate the might of the ideological revolution. When the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army strongly arm themselves with our party's revolutionary idea, the chuche idea, and strengthen the main forces of our revolution by all means, there can be no obstacle or fortress we cannot break or conquer.

Strengthening the ideological revolution is a way to break the vicious antisocialist maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries with the hot wind of chuche and highly demonstrate the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle; and deepening the ideological revolution is a way to bring about new turns to develop agriculture and the light industry, decisively increase production of export goods, and, thus, turn our country into a people's paradise better to live in.

The banner of the ideological revolution is a banner of invincibility that we must uphold now and forever. We must cherish deep in our hearts great pride in carrying out the revolution under the leadership of the great party and leader [suryong] and further deepen the ideological revolution to comply with the demand of the developing era.

We must, above all, cherish deep in our hearts the justness of our party's idea and theory on conquering both the ideological and materialistic fortresses of communism and give definite precedence to the ideological revolution in socialist construction.

To successfully build a socialist, communist society, we must conquer the ideological fortress, as well as the materialistic fortress, and, in particular, give definite precedence to the work of conquering the ideological fortress. This idea and theory is the most scientific and outstanding idea that our party presented for the first time in history. Because there was this great idea and theory, our people did not have any trivial twist or turn and built an invincible, powerful socialist country even though we were marching forward along the socialist road amid arduous trials for decades.

Apart from the great vitality of our party's policy on the ideological revolution, we cannot talk about the achievements we brought about during the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan. Apart from it, it is unthinkable that we are vigorously demonstrating the superiority of the socialism of our own style.

All party members and workers must cherish deep in their hearts the wisdom of the leadership of our party, which presented the theory on giving definite precedence to the ideological revolution over any other work. Our people must also take great pride in the fact that they, born in the great chuche fatherland, are strongly defending the socialist banner. For all party members and workers to strongly arm themselves with the chuche idea and further consolidate single-minded unity based on the chuche idea is the most important task to vigorously carry out the ideological revolution.

The might of the socialism of our own style is that of the chuche idea and that of single-minded unity. To us, who must uphold the banner of the chuche idea and complete the socialist cause to the end under the party's leadership, nothing is more important than the work of arming ourselves with the chuche idea and strongly uniting ourselves around the party. All party members and workers must consider our party's revolutionary idea, the chuche idea, to be their firm belief and have the firm determination that they will uphold the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il loyally, devotedly, and single-mindedly.

The great leader's works and the dear comrade leader's documents are a library of the chuche idea and the most valuable classics that we must always study profoundly. All party members and workers must systematically, fully, and deeply study the great leader's work on inheriting and completing the chuche socialist cause and "Abuses of Socialism are Intolerable" and other documents of the dear comrade leader that were published this year, realize the justness and greatness of our party's ideas and theories, and have the firm determination that they will carry out the revolution to the end under the party's leadership.

We must make persistent efforts to strongly prepare ourselves as genuine communist revolutionaries who, just like frontrankers in beautiful communist traits who have internalized the chuche idea, have a strong revolutionary view on the leader [suryong] and a strong sense of patriotism and collectivism. We must also try to find happiness in always sincerely carrying out organizational activities and boundlessly glorifying political life. Today, the vitality of the ideological revolution must be vigorously demonstrated in the solemn struggle to create speed in the general onward march of the socialism of our own style.

At present, our party attaches the greatest importance to the ideological revolution and gives definite precedence to it. It does so to raise all our party members and workers into genuine communist revolutionaries and complete the socialist cause by mobilizing the revolutionary enthusiasm of the popular masses.

We have many things to do. In the struggle to implement the party's policy that agriculture, the light industry, and foreign trade are the most important, we must boundlessly demonstrate popular heroism with the spirit with which, from the ruins where everything was destroyed and where only ashes remained, we, after tying our belts tightly, waged an arduous struggle to create the history of the great upswing of Chollima.

With the notion that they are the masters of the nation's granaries, our agricultural workers must positively wage the struggle to upgrade all sectors of agricultural production into new higher stages, and the party members and workers in the light industry must earnestly and persistently wage the struggle to greatly increase production of various textile goods, daily necessities, foodstuffs, and processed goods by accelerating the light industrial revolution. Officials and workers in all the sectors of the people's economy must uphold the party's policy on giving top priority to foreign trade and bring about new turns in developing foreign trade. By so doing, we must brilliantly realize our party's plan to make all our people can afford to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in tile-roofed houses in the near future and, in this way, fully show the might of the heroic Korean people strongly armed with the chuche idea.

Enhancing the role of party organizations of various levels is very important in vigorously carrying out the ideological revolution to comply with the demand of the developing era. All party organizations must bear in mind that strengthening the ideological revolution at present is a vital work to strongly defend the immortal leadership achievements of the party and the leader [suryong], boundlessly glorify them, and fully demonstrate the superiority and might of the socialism of our own style. They also must give top priority to this work.

Party organizations must positively carry out ideological work to make the party members and workers profoundly know the instructions—which the respected and beloved leader gave at the party plenary meeting—and deeply realize the justness and vitality of our party's policy on the ideological revolution. In particular, party organizations must strengthen the indoctrination of party members and workers to ensure that party members and workers realize the greatness of the party and the leader [suryong] and have confidence in socialism. In this way, party organizations must ensure that all party members and workers, just like Comrade Yi In-mo, maintain their fidelity to the leader [yongdoja] of the revolution to the end. Seizing the National Meeting of Frontrankers in Beautiful Communist Traits, which was recently held on a grand scale, as an opportunity, they must also positively carry out indoctrination work to ensure that new generations show beautiful communist traits.

The future of our revolution is optimistic, and the might of our revolutionary ideas is being displayed more highly as time goes by. Today, we have the immortal great chuche idea—which the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song created and which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is fully developing and enriching—and the stablest socialist system of single-minded unity and invincibility, a brilliant reality in which the chuche idea is embodied.

In hearty response to the decisions at the 21st Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee, we must more vigorously carry out the ideological revolution than any other time, make party members and workers display their revolutionary enthusiasm, score new upsurges in socialist construction, and further consolidate the political and economic might of our fatherland.

'Crimes' of Kim Yong-sam's 'Regime' Viewed

SK2112123593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Report on 'White Paper' issued by the South Korean National Democratic Front, SKNDF, Central Committee in Seoul on 15 December]

[Text] According to a broadcast of the Voice of National Salvation in Seoul, the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] Central Committee released a white paper on crimes of the civilian regime to expose and condemn the nation-selling traitorous acts of the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique.

The gist of the white paper is as follows:

The white paper on crimes of the civilian regime:

From the time the Kim Yong-sam regime was inaugurated under the signboard of a civilian government to the present, our people carefully observed its political activities.

During its 10-month rule, the Kim Yong-sam regime exposed its nature as a fascist, nation-selling, and confrontational regime, not as a civilian regime that our people wanted.

The SKNDF, with all the people who cannot repress their indignation of this, issues this white paper on the civilian regime's crimes in order to (?sum up) the treacherous Kim Yong-sam regime and to part from [kyolbyol] this regime.

1. The Civilian Fascist Lunatic

Kim Yong-sam is an atrocious fascist lunatic who infringed upon and obliterated genuine democratization with a deceitful reform drive by wearing the mask of a civilian government.

Kim Yong-sam's political reform, which advocated clean politics, was not a systematic reform of the military dictatorship, but a reorganization of the system designed to build a civilian fascist dictatorship.

Kim Yong-sam has not reformed the legal basis of the military dictatorship of the Sixth Republic. During the election campaign period, this traitor said he would revise the National Security Law. After he came to office, however, he said that abolition of the National Security Law is premature, thus reversing his remarks and deceiving the people.

In actuality, up to the present time Kim Yong-sam has not revised even a word of the National Security Law, the most vicious evil law of all fascist evil laws. He is using this law as a fascist club of his civilian regime.

Kim Yong-sam still maintains intact the fascist organizations of the Sixth Republic. Kim Yong-sam, forced by pannational resistance, hang out a signboard announcing the reduction of the NSP [National Security Planning] organizations. In actuality, however, he transferred some NSP organizations to other administrative offices and agencies and established (?some other) organizations. He established anew the Anti-North Strategic Planning Bureau and thus readjusted and expanded the NSP.

Through a personnel reform drive, Kim Yong-sam replaced 1,000 public servants, 62 percent of corps commander-level general officers, and 32 percent of division commander-level general officers. This was not a reform drive but a personnel reshuffle drive to remove his political rivals.

Kim Yong-sam drastically increased oppressive forces, more than those of the Sixth Republic's military fascist regime. The Kim Yong-sam group reinforced the mobile riot police units by 17,000 last February. With this as the beginning, the Kim Yong-sam group increased some 39,000 policemen in 247 companies. It additionally deployed various oppressive equipment, including 1,577 112-patrol cars.

Kim Yong-sam's economic reform, which advocated a solid economy, is an economic reform drive designed to strengthen an economic system benefiting only large business groups, and is a whip-wielding reform drive to squeeze the breath out of the working masses.

Following the 100-day new economic plan, in which Kim Yong-sam shifted the responsibility for economic crisis onto the workers, the Kim Yong-sam group fabricated a five-year new economic plan and diminished the workers' livelihood.

While preaching on sharing pains and self-restraint of desires to workers, Kim Yong-sam supported and instigated the business owners to limit the wage increase to one digit.

Kim Yong-sam discarded like old shoes his election pledge that he will make farmers want to return to the farms, instead of farmers leaving the farms. The Kim Yong-sam group reduced farms to collapse by working out and implementing the traitorous five-year new agricultural policy plan. To make the matters worse, farms were hit by a cold wave, unprecedented in 80 years.

The Kim Yong-sam clique, who advocated the liquidation of irregularities with no sanctuary, hurriedly concluded not only an investigation, but also a parliamentary investigation after learning the truth of the Peace Dam fraud case and that No Tae-u was behind the Yulgok Defense Project, which has devoured billions of won of black money. Moreover, they intentionally covered up the irregularities committed by Kwon Yong-hae.

The Kim Yong-sam clique buried in darkness the May 16 coup and the October Yusin, the December 12 Army purge coup, and the May 17 Kwangju massacre, declaring that they will leave the probe into these four cases of violation of constitutional government to history, thus, patronizing their chief culprits.

The civilian regime's physical oppression of our popular masses' reform movements surpass that of the Sixth Republic. The Kim Yong-sam clique profaned the working masses' march toward democracy and right to live by branding it collective individualism and the worst South Korean disease, and wielded a fascist sword by condemning the people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification as illegal and radical riots.

The Kim Yong-sam fascist clique repressed workers of the Hyundai group in Ulsan district who had struggled for their right to live by using the police. Moreover, they invoked emergency mediation rights—even the prior military dictators did not dare provoke this—and brutally oppressed the workers. They staged a bloodbath by using a police force of 100,000 against the struggle of students and citizens demanding a probe into the Kwangju incident and the punishment of those responsible. They even are going on the rampage to suppress and dissolve all the fighting organizations, such as the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils, the National Teachers Union, and the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification.

The Kim Yong-sam clique, which is blocking the popular movements at the source, attempt to fundamentally stamp out the movements with a reformation [kaeryanghwa] offensive. They, in particular, are pertinaciously stepping up reformation of movements by putting dissidents, who have joined their hands with the power, in the forefront.

Some 30 former dissidents who had been in the sphere of activism, including Han Wan-sang, Son Hak-kyu, Kim Chong-nam, and (Kim Yong-chol), preach that an equation that power equals vice is groundless. They are spearheads who facilitate disintegration and reformation of the popular movements, and who have pigments [saekkam] that paint the image of Kim Yong-sam, fascist dictator, as the leader of the civilian regime.

The Kim Yong-sam clique are viciously maneuvering to convert the popular movements to the civic movements by instigating and bribing government-controlled activist groups. By putting right-wing youth organizations, such as the One Nation Collegian Alliance, the National Alliance for Reunification of the North and South, and the Student Association of Defense of Fatherland, in their forefront, they eliminated progressive ideas and voices, and infiltrated insidious forces into progressive organizations, such as the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils, to instigate adventurous acts, such as reckless attack, destruction, and arson, for an excuse to suppress the popular movements.

Circulating the rumor of the break up of the National Democratic Alliance of South Korea, they converted the popular movements into reformist civic movements by moving the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice to the forefront.

Due to Kim Yong-sam clique's fictitious reform and the maneuvers to obliterate the popular movements, politics in South Korea [hanguk] is missing, its economy is in tatters, its society is in extreme chaos, and the overall popular movements, including the student activist movement, is being gravely challenged.

2. The Civilian Nation-Selling Lunatic.

Wearing the mask of a civilian government, Kim Yong-sam is a wicked, nation-selling lunatic who sold off the issue of life and death concern for the nation. The worst act in nation-selling is to open the rice market—the blood and flesh of the people.

While the string of rulers had not dared to meddle with this matter, Kim Yong-sam, regarding the issue of opening the rice market as a card, carried out behind-the-scene maneuvers with the White House right after the party merger, and was thus selected as a presidential candidate. Recently, an aide of Pak Chol-on said that bearing this in mind, Pak Chol-on had stated during the presidential elections that if Kim Yong-sam opens his mouth, he would be ruined. The aide also said that Kim Yong-sam placed Pak Chol-on in prison under the pretext of being involved in a bribery incident in order to shut his mouth.

At the South Korea-U.S. [hanmi] summit talks held prior to the Uruguay Round negotiations on 23 November, Kim Yong-sam secretly promised to open the rice market and finally signed the memorandum of agreement. Because of the Kim Yong-sam regime's such treacherous acts, South Korea's [hanguk] agriculture faces the fate of complete bankruptcy and with the livelihood of the 6 million farmers facing a dead-end, the last vestige of South Korea's national economy is collapsing, and South Korea is being reduced to being the United States' market for rice.

Kim Yong-sam's role as a cat's paw and flunkeyist nation-seller did not end here. Clinton's plan for a new Pacific community is a means to restrain Japan and China and tie up the countries in the Asia and Pacific region in domination system which falls under the axis of the U.S. colonialist domination of South Korea.

While participating in the November Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Seattle, however, Kim Yong-sam babbled flattery by saying its new diplomacy is related to Clinton's new Pacific community plan. He even bound South Korea under this domination system.

When signs of giving up the Pentagon's win-and-win strategy simulating a war in Korea appeared in the United States, the lord and master, due to its complete exhaustion following the Cold War, the Kim Yong-sam ring became impatient and speedily dispatched Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae to Washington to convey the South Korean Government's concern and made an ugly scene of begging to revise the win-hold-win strategy.

At the South Korea-U.S. summit talks in July and the South Korean-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting [SCM] in November, Kim Yong-sam clung to the lord and mater's clothes and made a fuss. Thus, he induced the United States to adopt the win-and-win strategy and had the wartime operational control of the Seventh Fleet of the U.S. Pacific Command placed under the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

According to the Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement concluded with the United States, Kim Yong-sam agreed in April to allow the United States free use of South Korea's port facilities in the event of an emergency; in May, Kim Yong-sam made a compromise to allow the U.S. Seventh Air Force to use most of the facilities the U.S. Air Force were to return to South Korea; and in August, realized the plan to recruit the U.S. Forces' logistics and private man-power in the Ulchi-93 Focus Lens exercise. Thus, Kim Yong-sam made South Korea entirely available for use in carrying out U.S. strategy.

To keep the U.S. forces adhered to South Korea, the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime even maneuvered a treacherous special agreement raising South Korea's portion in burdensharing for the maintenance of U.S. forces in South Korea to the one-third mark at the South Korea-U.S. annual SCM and South Korea-U.S. summit talks. As a result, the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime was able to withhold a reduction of U.S. forces in South Korea.

Traitor Kim Yong-sam's pro-Japanese, flunkeyist, nation-selling act considerably exceeds the pro-Japanese, flunkeyist, nation-selling acts of Pak Chong-hui and Kim Chong-pil. At one time, traitor Kim Yong-sam denounced Kim Chong-pil who stamped a seal to the South Korea-Japan agreement, as a pro-Japanese nation-seller worse than the five enemies who concluded the Ulsa-Five Treaty. As such a traitor, Kim Yong-sam invited Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa and not only reconfirmed the treacherous agreement on basic relations between South Korea and Japan, but also committed the flunkeyist nation-selling act of whitewashing Japan's past crimes.

On the comfort women issue, as well, the traitor Kim Yong-sam clique has completely revoked the claim for compensation for the comfort women and has nullified this issue. Instead, it is further pursuing the policy of following Japan, clamoring about the need for establishing new future-oriented South Korean-Japanese relations. The Kim Yong-sam clique, the political foundation of which is weaker than any past regimes, is sneaking deeper into Japan's economic and military sphere with the aim of seeking its protection.

Japanese reactionaries have built heavy trade barriers for South Korean goods. Nevertheless, the traitor Kim Yong-sam clique has opened wider the door of economic opening for Japanese reactionaries.

Last August, the Kim Yong-sam clique announced a so-called economic policy toward Japan, the main content of which is to completely lift by 1997 the present measures to restrict the import of Japanese goods, which has been taken perfunctorily. The Kim Yong-sam clique, which is seeking the road of military collusion with Japan's attempts to become a nuclear power and a military power, invited high-ranking officers of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to the Team Spirit joint exercise in the capacity of observers. It has also invited the Japan Self-Defense Forces to take part in South Korean-U.S. antisubmarine and sea-blockade exercises.

Because of the nation-selling Kim Yong-sam regime's pro-U.S. and pro-Japanese servile policy, South Korea's subjugation to the United States and Japan has been further expedited, and South Korea is being driven into the double colonies of the United States and Japan.

3. Civilian-Clad Warmaniac

Kim Yong-sam is a vicious bellicose maniac who has brought North-South relations to the brink of confrontation and war under the disguise of a civilian-led government. The Kim Yong-sam clique has frozen North-South relations under the pretext of the nuclear issue.

Even during the military dictatorial Sixth Republic dialogue between the authorities of the North and the South was held, civilian-level dialogue was in progress, the exchange of art troupes was realized, and North-South single teams participated in the international table tennis and soccer games.

Nevertheless, before he took office, Kim Yong-sam, saying nuclear inspection was a precondition for dialogue, openly clamored that unless the North accepts the International Atomic Energy Agency's special inspection, North-South dialogue and the visit to the North by working-level economic officials cannot be allowed. After he took office, he suspended without exception North-South high-level talks, which were in their final stage; the operation of the North-South joint nuclear control committee; and the working-level contacts for economic exchange, while babbling that he cannot shake hands with a party having nuclear weapons. He also blocked with bayonet the 12 June North-South student talks at Panmunjom and the Fourth 15 August Pannational Rally scheduled to be held in Seoul. He went so far as to block the Seoul-Pyongyang soccer games and a bicycle race between North and South Korean students.

Following the birth of the Kim Yong-sam regime, the North, proceeding from the desire for national reconciliation, in April put forward the 10-point program for great national unity of the whole nation and a proposal for exchanging special envoys of the top leaders of the North and the South. Thus, the North showed utmost generosity. Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam clique refused these compatriotic proposals by the North, saying that there is no way for national reunification other than reunification under the free democratic system, and came up with a three-phase reunification theory in a bid to achieve reunification by absorbing the North. Thus, the Kim Yong-sam clique has been aggravating confrontation and tension, laying the blame on the nonexistent North Korean nuclear issue.

Kim Yong-sam resumed the Team Spirit military exercise, which had been suspended in the late period of the Sixth Republic. He appeared at the exercise site and inspired war fever there, clamoring that he would not play the fool of dreaming reunification at the sacrifice of national security and that national strength should be cultivated.

In actuality, the military expenses of 6 trillion won, the largest in history and which was inconceivable even under the military regime of the Sixth Republic, have been appropriated by the civilian-led government. The violent remarks that there would no hesitation to take military countermeasures, which was inconceivable even under the Sixth Republic regime, burst out from the mouth of the civilian-led government. In addition, a security-related conspiratorial conference was held almost every day in Chongwadae [presidential offices] to discuss measures to strengthen the preparedness for war. In the whole area of South Korea powder-reeking Ssangyong, Ulchi, Ulchi Focus Lens, and Foal Eagle war exercises were staged in succession, and an emergency alert order was issued for the entire South Korean Armed Forces.

Because of such reckless and thoughtless acts by the Kim Yong-sam clique, North-South relations have been driven into an extremely tense state.

The Kim Yong-sam bellicose ring has blocked a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. As the shock brigade for the smear international nuclear commotion, it is driving the nation into a nuclear holocaust.

To solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way and to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the DPRK-U.S. talks should be successful. Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam clique has been persistently hindering the DPRK-U.S. talks.

On the other hand, traitor Kim Yong-sam has been frantically strengthening the international cooperation system and sanctions against the North in a bid to plot to harm and crush it. On 6 November, the Kim Yong-sam ring held a secret South Korean-Japanese conspiratorial conference in Kyongju. In the conference the Kim Yong-sam ring, in return for revoking the issue of Japan's past acts, not only agreed to wage a united front with Japan to plot to harm and crush the North regarding the nuclear issue, but also went so far as to conclude a secret agreement to push ahead with nuclear development with Japan.

At the South Korean-U.S. summit talks held in November, the Kim Yong-sam ring begged the United States to reject the proposal for a package deal put forward by the North and to take international sanctions against the North in return for making concessions to the United States in the overall opening of the rice market in South Korea. It also agreed to further strengthen the cooperative system between South Korea and the United States regarding the nuclear issue.

On the one hand Kim Yong-sam is blocking the road for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula while on the other hand he is running madly about to strengthen the international cooperative system, which is a plot to harm and crush [apsal] the fellow countrymen with the nuclear issue. Thus, Kim Yong-sam, who is driving the mushroom cloud of a nuclear calamity over the nation, is indeed a peerless nation-seller and villain who must be beheaded and dismembered.

Because of such commotion of a nuclear scheme by the Kim Yong-sam ring, the South-North dialogue and the doors of exchange, which were held open under the military dictatorship, were blocked by the civilian-led dictatorship; agreements to improve South-North relations that were arranged over a long-time period, all became blank papers; South-North relations returned to the starting point of confrontation; and a critical moment in which a war may break out at any moment on the Korean peninsula was created.

The only thing the Kim Yong-sam ring achieved during his 10 months of power by wearing the mask of a civilian government was shackling our people, who were hoping to achieve independence, democracy, and reunification, as a prisoner of the system, slave of the outside forces, and a hostage of the nuclear war.

Our people have nothing more to expect from the Kim Yong-sam ring. The only way for our people to be free from today's annihilating reality and unhappy situation is to part with the treacherous Kim Yong-sam regime, which has been deceiving our people. Our people will give a heavy blow to the Kim Yong-sam ring, which has acted against independence, democracy, and reunification under the civilian government mask.

[Signed] SKNDF Central Committee

[Issued] 15 December 1993, Seoul

Importance of Upholding Kim Chong-il Stressed

SK2212092393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk: "Our People's Greatest Happiness is Upholding the Great Leader Who is Possessed With a Lofty Virtue"]

[Text] Today, socialism of our own style is vigorously advancing in accordance with the might of all the people's single-hearted unity, which is impregnably united around the party and the leader. All the party members and workers of the whole nation are always endlessly admiring and following the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, entrusting all of their fate and future to him, and are vigorously fighting overflowing with faith and optimism. This is our society's proud appearance.

The relationship between the leader [yongdoja] and the people is being endlessly developed into a blood-tied relationship that cannot be separated, and the superiority of socialism of our own style is being vigorously manifested with each passing day. This lies in the fact that they are upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is possessed with a lofty virtue and excellent people-oriented trait.

The greatest happiness for the people carrying out the revolution is upholding the great leader [yongdoja] who is possessed with brilliant wisdom, excellent leadership, and lofty virtue. The leader's [yongdoja] great people-oriented trait is a fundamental source in making it possible to give rise to the cohesion and unity of the whole society and in brilliantly embodying true people-oriented politics.

People-oriented politics is an inherent way of politics in a socialist society. True people-oriented politics can be realized only when a leader [yongdoja] who endlessly loves the people is upheld and its might and vitality can be highly manifested.

When it is not possible to bring forth a true leader of the people, people-oriented politics that are in accordance with the true nature of a socialist society cannot be realized in the history of the communist movement. Thus, this shows that the popular masses will be deprived of the dignity and position of being the master of the revolution and master of the country, and they will suffer innumerable pains and unhappiness.

Today, our people are advancing according to the leadership of the dear comrade leader. Thus, they are enjoying the maximum honor and happiness.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is not only a great ideologist, theorist, politician, and military strategist, he is also a model of a people-oriented leader [yongdoja] who is possessed with an endless lofty virtue. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Comrade Kim Chong-il is possessed with all magnificent traits that a leader of the people has to possess.

More than anything else, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il puts forth the popular masses as the most precious being. Thus, he is receiving absolute respect and trust from the people. The popular masses are the main force of history and a driving force in the society's development.

The popular masses are the main force of history and the driving force of social development. A leader [yongdoja] masters his wisdom, leadership ability, and character [toksong] in the popular masses. An outstanding leader [yongdoja] who does not treasure and infinitely love the people cannot exist. Always identifying the popular masses as an absolute existence, trusting in the people, and solving everything through the strength of the popular masses guarantees correct leadership, and a leader [yongdoja] who possesses such strength is a genuine leader [chamdaun yongdoja] of the people.

The dear comrade leader has a thorough position and viewpoint of regarding the popular masses as the most precious and mighty beings in the world. Thanks to the dear comrade leader who is brilliantly embodying the great chuche idea the position and dignity of the popular masses have reached the highest stage and the proud history of the motherly party, which warmly looks after the popular masses, has been unfolded.

The noble character of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who identifies the popular masses as an absolute existence and treasures them, has found expression in his genuine, people-oriented politics.

A genuine leader [chamdaun yongdoja] of the people will receive respect and confidence from the people because of the achievements he has registered and the people-oriented politics he carries out.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who has firmly united the entire party and all the people as one with his warm love toward revolutionary fighters and the people and who, based on this, is consummating the socialist cause, and his love and confidence toward the people are the basic characteristics of his politics.

The dear comrade leader's love toward the people is a noble love which always shares joys and sorrows with the popular masses and which spares no efforts for the people's happiness. His love is also the infinitely wide and benevolent motherly love which always embraces everyone struggling for the working masses' independence.

The dear comrade leader's lofty people-oriented politics finds clear expression in his infinite love toward revolutionary fighters. Thinking it as the greatest asset to have many comrades and as the greatest happiness to enjoy comrades' love and confidence, the dear comrade leader spares no efforts in the interest of revolutionary fighters.

Because of the benevolent bosom of the dear comrade leader who looks after revolutionary fighters to the end once he has come to trust them, our functionaries have been able to constantly temper and cultivate themselves while adding luster to their noble political lives. The dear comrade leader's love toward revolutionary fighters also reaches the people of all strata, including workers, farmers, and intellectuals.

Stressing that men should not be assessed on the basis of his family background or past career, but should be assessed on the basis of his present ideology of trying to contribute to the country, the people, and the revolution, the dear comrade leader treats, without discrimination, all people who defend independence and support socialism as companions of the revolution and identifies them as dignified members of the revolutionary ranks.

Today the people of all strata are respectfully sending to the dear comrade leader letters pledging loyalty and filial piety; the noble, laudable communist virtues fully effloresce in the whole society; and all the people are rising up in the sacred struggle for reunification, revering the dear comrade leader as the father of the nation, regardless of whether they live in the North, the South, or overseas and irrespective of their ideologies, political views, political parties, religions, and political life. This is because his bosom is so warm and wide.

The dear comrade leader's politics of love, politics of trust, and politics of broad-scope have produced loyalty and filial piety among party members and the working people. These politics are also not only bringing the laudable, beautiful communist traits into full bloom throughout the country, but have also turned the whole society into a peaceful, large family firmly united according to the collectivist principle of "one for all and all for one."

The dear comrade leader has devoted his all to the fatherland's prosperity and the people's happiness with his matchless and boundless noble virtues. Because of this, he possesses absolute prestige as the genuine leader [yongdoja] of the people and enjoys boundless respect from the people.

Today, our people live and carry out the revolution, upholding as the center of unity and the center of leadership the dear comrade leader, who is brilliantly inheriting and consummating the chuche revolutionary cause, cherishing great people-oriented features and sharing the destiny with the people.

If they had failed to have the good fortune of upholding the dear comrade leader our people would not enjoy the rewarding new life of socialism to their hearts' content as seen today. This is why our people are firmly trusting and following the dear comrade leader, singing the song of firm faith that without the dear comrade leader no fatherland can exist. Reflected in this song are our people's firm and invariable faith and will to fight to the end under the party's leadership, while entrusting their destiny and future to the dear comrade leader who, by carrying out boundless noble, people-oriented politics, has turned our society into a peaceful, large family and who has seen to it that the grand appearance and dignity of the chuche fatherland are demonstrated to the world.

As long as the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who possesses noble virtues leads the revolution and construction and as long as the outstanding people who uphold their leader [yongdoja] with loyalty and filial piety exist, the main force of our revolution will be stronger as time passes and there will be neither barriers that we cannot break through nor fortress that we cannot occupy.

All party members and the working people should cherish deep in their hearts the great national dignity and honor of living and carrying out the revolution, upholding the great leader [widaehan yongdoja], and should uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty. Thus, they should strengthen the might of our fatherland by all means and consummate the chuche revolutionary cause to the end.

South Korea

UN Head Butrus-Ghali Continues Asian Visit

Arrives in Seoul

SK2212062793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0620 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived in Seoul on Wednesday on a "good will mission" that will take him to both sides of the Korean nuclear controversy.

The UN chief, coming from Japan, began his tight schedule by meeting Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu soon after arrival. Their talks were to concentrate on North Korea's nuclear issue, the UN role in peaceful resolution of the problem, and how Butros-Ghali can drive in the seriousness of the current nuclear debacle to North Korean leadership.

The Egyptian diplomat-turned-UN chief crosses the heavily fortified border at Panmunjom on Friday to enter North Korea, where he meets supreme leader Kim Il-song.

Han suggested Butrus-Ghali's Seoul-Pyongyang visit when they met in March, but North Korea refused the suggestion then, saying it was willing to talk only to the United States.

North Korea apparently changed its mind when Butrus-Ghali's Seoul trip became final, Seoul officials said.

The visit comes at a time when the Stalinist state and the United States seem to be making headway in the impasse. After their last contact Monday, Washington said North Korea's latest offer contained some progress and there were plans to talk more with Pyongyang.

Butrus-Ghali flies out to Beijing from Pyongyang and meets Chinese leaders. The talks there, too, are likely to concentrate on the North Korean issue with the UN chief emphasizing China's influence on its ally to resolve the matter peacefully.

Seoul officials hope that the UN leader will be able to get a personal assessment of the nuclear issue through direct meetings with North Korean leaders and convey the assessment to other members of the global body.

Time is approaching for Seoul and Washington to decide whether to seek UN sanctions if North Korea keeps refusing international inspection on its nuclear facilities, and Butrus-Ghali's contact with the leaders of both Koreas and China will help in mustering a consensus at the United Nations, the officials said.

Butrus-Ghali will deliver a speech at a dinner hosted by the Korean Council on Foreign Relations on Wednesday evening, after his talks with Foreign Minister Han.

On Thursday, he meets President Kim Yong-sam and attends a dinner hosted by Kim. He also meets heads of UN organizations in South Korea, the commander of the UN Command and the speaker of the National Assembly.

He holds a press conference on Friday before crossing through Panmunjom.

Reportedly Sent Letter to Kim Il-song

SK2212063293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0623 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—United Nations Secretary- General Butrus Butrus-Ghali sent a letter to North Korean paramount leader Kim Il-song in April, urging him to reveal Pyongyang's position on its suspected nuclear arms program to the international community, Radio Moscow reported Tuesday.

The UN chief spoke of the letter during his visit to Japan, according to the report, monitored here by Naewoe Press, Seoul's official North Korea watcher.

He said that his letter was handed to Kim by Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was then visiting Pyongyang, but added that he has not received a reply.

Butrus-Ghali, who arrived in Seoul from Tokyo on Wednesday, makes the next stop of his Asian trip in Pyongyang after crossing the border at Panmunjom on Friday.

He is expected to have intensive talks with Kim to find a solution to a row over the suspected nuclear development during his stay in the closed Stalinist country, the Radio Moscow report said.

Asked To Relay 'Concern' to DPRK

SK2212102993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1020 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea bade U.N. chief Wednesday to drive in Seoul's position and seriousness of international concern on North Korea's nuclear problem when he visits Pyongyang this week.

Foreign minister Han Sung-chu met with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali who arrived in Seoul earlier for a trip taking him across the Korean border to North Korea and then to China.

Han reiterated Seoul's position that North Korea must comply fully with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and resume inter-Korean dialogue.

He asked that the U.N. leader deliver this position and the gravity international community gives to the problem when he meets North Korean leaders.

Butrus-Ghali crosses the border village of Panmunjom Friday.

The U.N. official's visit comes at a time when North Korea and the United States seem to be making enough progress to continue dialogue.

Butrus-Ghali explained that he comes as U.N. secretary-general visiting U.N. members and has no mandate from the Security Council or any member on the nuclear issue.

He expressed hopes for personal opportunity to find out about the political situation in Northeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula and how the matter stands on the North Korean nuclear issue, Ministry officials said.

With the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) up for renewal in 1995, North Korea's nuclear problem is an important issue from the perspective of stopping nuclear spread, he was quoted as saying.

Will Discuss Nuclear Issue

SK2212104493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1033 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said on Wednesday [22 December] that the U.N. Security Council will take steps to dissolve the United Nations Command in Korea when a permanent peace is achieved on the Korean peninsula.

The U.N. chief, who arrived in Seoul earlier in the day, expressed the hope in his address at a Hyatt Hotel meeting hosted by the Korean Council on Foreign Relations and the United Nations Association that one day the two Korean states will be represented in the United Nations as one.

The Egyptian diplomat-turned-U.N. chief crosses the heavily fortified border at Panmunjom on Friday [24

December] to enter North Korea, where he meets President Kim Il-song to discuss, among others, a solution to the North Korean nuclear problem.

He said, "a permanent peace in the Korean peninsula- to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement - remains a key aim of the international community. When such a peace is achieved, I have confidence that the Security Council will take steps to dissolve the United Nations Command in Korea, which has been in place since 1950.

"It is my hope that one day the two Korean states will be represented in the United Nations as one. This is the clear desire of the Korean people, of the two governments, and of the international community."

He also emphasized that U.N. member states must now work carefully together to build durable structures to guarantee the future stability of the world, saying that the United Nations is now engaged in a process of rethinking and re-building.

"New approaches and new attitudes are required. Our institutions will have to be renewed and reformed," he said.

On Thursday [23 December], he meets President Kim Yong-sam and attends a dinner hosted by Kim. He also meets heads of U.N. organizations in South Korea, the commander of the U.N. Command and the speaker of the National Assembly.

He holds a press conference on Friday before crossing through Panmunjom.

After visiting North Korea, Butrus-Ghali flies out to Beijing from Pyongyang and meets Chinese leaders.

The talks there, too, are likely to concentrate on the North Korean issue with the U.N. chief emphasizing the need of China's influence on North Korea, its ally, to resolve the matter peacefully.

Further Background on New Cabinet Members

SK2212020793 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] Chong Chae-sok (DPM & EPB minister)

The new deputy prime minister, 63, graduated from the law college of Seoul National University in 1955, and received a master's degree in law from the same university in 1957.

Shortly after earning a master's degree in economics from Vanderbilt University in the United States in 1959, he started his career at the Economic Planning Board (EPB).

After serving as director general for economic planning at the EPB, he moved to the Ministry of Transportation in 1964 to become director general for overland transportation.

He was promoted to the post of assistant minister of transportation for planning and management in 1966 and moved to the EPB as assistant minister for planning and management in 1968.

In 1972, he was appointed vice minister of construction.

From 1975 to 1979, he served as director of research institutes and as a member of the Monetary Board.

He was appointed vice minister of economic planning in 1979 and minister of commerce and industry in the same year.

Yi Yong-tok (DPM & NUB minister)

Yi Yong-tok, president of Myongji University who was named yesterday as the new deputy prime minister and unification minister, is reputed to be one of the leading professionals in the nation's pedagogics circles.

A native of Kangso, South Pyongan Province, now in North Korea, Yi taught education at Seoul National University (SNU) from 1959 after graduating from the state-run university in 1952.

The 68-year-old scholar got his Ph.D. degree from Ohio State University in the United States in 1959.

Until recently, Yi successfully fulfilled his responsibility as chairman of the Administration Ethics Committee, which checked personal assets registered by high-level government officials for three months starting early September.

In inter-Korean relations, Yi is well experienced. He served as southern-side chief delegate at the 9th inter-Korean Red Cross Meeting in 1985. He also worked as the vice president of the (South) Korean National Red Cross in 1984.

Yi, who has one son and two daughters, is said by his colleagues to be gentle in character but thorough in his work.

Choe Hyong-u (Home affairs minister)

A five-term lawmaker, Choe is a close confidant of President Kim Yong-sam but was forced to resign as secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party in March after his son was involved in a college entrance examination scam.

Choe, a graduate of Tongguk University, served as first state minister for political affairs in 1991 under the government of former President No Tae-u.

Choe, 58, had devoted himself to helping President Kim whenever Kim, a former opposition leader, faced political difficulties during previous authoritarian governments.

Born in Ulju, North Kyongsang Province, Choe played a key role in Kim's presidential campaign last year by overseeing Kim's private organizations such as the Democratic Alpinists Club.

Yi Pyong-tae (Defense minister)

A retired Army lieutenant general, Yi is one of the few incumbent generals President Kim Yong-sam trusts.

Yi, 56, attended the same high school (Kyongnam High School in Pusan) as the President did, and graduated from the Korea Military Academy in the 17th class in 1961.

He has served as minister of patriots and veterans affairs since February this year.

He was placed on the reserve list in July last year when he was the director of the Strategy and Operations Bureau of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After that, he served as consul-general in Hawaii.

From 1989-1991, he was commander of the 1st Army Corps.

Kim Suk-hui (Education minister)

A leading authority on food and nutrition and YWCA chief renowned for her drive, the new minister is known to her associates as a strong-willed woman, whose determination once led to a clash with government intelligence officials.

She irked the military and intelligence agency in the 1960s when she prepared a paper on the harmful effects of namyon—the instant noodle that the military fed to its soldiers.

A native of Chonan, South Chungchong Province, Kim won her doctorate degree on food and nutrition from Johns Hopkins University. She has since taught at Ewha Woman's University, her alma mater.

Kim, 57, is widely considered a trailblazer who introduced modern scientific study of food and nutrition here. Many of her former students are now teaching in universities across the nation.

Kim Yang-pae (Agriculture minister)

Kim, who has served President Kim Yong-sam as his senior secretary for administrative affairs during the past 10 months, has gained a broad experience in his public career that spans 27 years.

Kim, 55, began his public service by passing the higher civil service examination in 1966, and served as mayor of Kwangju twice—from 1981 to 1983 and from 1986 to 1988.

Before his second mayoral stint, Kim worked as a home affairs adviser to the then ruling Democratic Justice Party in 1984 and was elected to the National Assembly on the party's national representation ticket in 1985 and became its chief planning coordinator the same year.

Kim was born in Koksong, South Cholla Province, and studied political science at Seoul National University.

Kim U-sok (Construction minister)

A native of Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province, the new construction minister is one of President Kim Yong-sam's confidants.

Born in 1936, he was elected to the National Assembly in 1988, representing the now-defunct Reunification Democratic Party (RDP).

Minister Kim served as chief secretary to the then DLP (Democratic Liberal Party) Chairman Kim Yong-sam between March 1990 and July 1991.

A graduate of Tong-A University law college, Kim has worked as president of Korea Land Development Corp. since April 1993.

So Sang-mok (Health and social affairs minister)

A two-term lawmaker of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, So has served as a key policy coordinator of the party since 1990.

A native of Hongsong in South Chungchong Province, So graduated from Amherst University in the United States and obtained a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

So, 46, served as vice president of the Korea Development Institute (KDI) in 1983 after joining the KDI in 1978.

In 1982, So worked as a senior councilor for the economic planning minister.

Nam Chae-hui (Labor minister)

The incoming chief labor official is a journalist-turned-politician, whose political skills and connections propelled him to key political posts in past governments and kept his name on the candidate list for major positions in the new government as well.

The four-term veteran legislator, based in a Seoul constituency, failed to win a fifth consecutive term in the April 1992 elections.

Nam, 60, a graduate of Seoul National University's Law School, started his journalism career as a reporter for the daily Hanguk Ilbo in 1958. He went one to become an editorial writer for the Choson Ilbo and editor-in-chief of the Seoul Sinmun.

A native of Chongju, North Chungchong Province, he entered politics in 1979. He held many key posts in the ruling parties, including two consecutive terms as chief policy maker for President Chon Tu-hwan's Democratic Justice Party.

O Myong (Transportation minister)

The 54-year-old new transportation minister, a native of Seoul, has played a leading role in modernizing the nation's telecommunications industry while serving as vice communications minister and communications minister from 1981-1988.

O also played a pivotal role in helping the country successfully host the Taejon Expo '93 as chairman of the Taejon International Exposition Organizing Committee.

The new minister graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1962 and majored in electronic engineering at Seoul National University.

He earned a Ph.D. in electronic engineering at New York State University in Stony Brook in 1972 and then worked as a professor at the academy.

A devout Christian, O and his wife have one son and one daughter.

Hwang Yong-ha (Government administration minister)

Hwang Yong-ha, who was appointed yesterday to head the Government Administration Ministry, is an authority on planning affairs of the watchdog body through his 24 years' service.

A native of Paju, Kyonggi Province, 54, Hwang graduated from Seoul National University College of Law in 1964 and started his public career as assistant junior official for the Secretariat of the National Assembly in 1965.

After he moved to the BAI in February 1969, Hwang has held many key posts, including director of planning and management, and has become well versed in the business of every government organization.

Pak Yun-hun (Environment minister)

A former vice minister at the Office of Legislation, Pak has served as a law professor at Kyonghui University since 1988.

A native of Posong, South Cholla Province, Pak graduated from Seoul National University's Law School and gained a Ph.D. in law from Korea University.

Pak, 58, has worked as a member of the Central Environmental Disputes Coordination Commission at the Environment Ministry since May 1991.

So Chong-won (First state minister)

Rep. So Chong-won of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), appointed as first state minister for political affairs, is a longtime confidant of President Kim Yong-sam.

So, 50, has been a member of Kim's inner circle since Kim led the struggle for democracy in the 1980s.

The three-term lawmaker is known for his ability to mediate between party officials in setting party policies.

He was chief secretary to Kim when then opposition leader Kim headed the now-defunct Reunification Democratic Party in 1989. He served as the DLP policy coordinator in 1990.

Yi Chung-kil (Patriots and veterans affairs minister)

Born in Chinju, South Kyongsang Province, in 1941, Yi has served as vice minister of patriots and veterans affairs since 1992.

Yi, 53, is known as an authority on administrative inspection. He held important audit and inspection posts in government offices, including the Board of Audit and Inspection.

A graduate of Tong-A University's Law School, Yi passed the state-run selection test for administrative officials in 1969.

Reshuffle of Presidential Secretaries Announced

SK2212071593 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0657 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The reshuffle of presidential secretaries in Chongwadae [presidential residence] was made this afternoon. The following are the details:

Senior Secretary for Political Affairs: Yi Won-chong, who is vice-minister of public information;

Senior Secretary for Governmental Affairs: (Yi Ui-kun), who is governor of North Kyongsang Province;

Senior Secretary for Petition and Information: Chu Ton-sik, who is senior secretary for political affairs;

Senior Secretary for newly established Agricultural, Fishery, and Forestry Affairs: Choe Yang-pu, who is deputy director of the Rural Economic Research Institute;

Yi Kyong-chae, the incumbent senior secretary for petition and information, has been appointed vice-minister of information.

Paper Analyzes New Foreign, Security Team

SK2212082893 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Dec 93 p 3

[By reporter Pak Tu-sik]

[Text] The appointment of Yi Yong-tok, president of Myongji University, as the deputy prime minister [DPM] in charge of reunification is viewed as partial surgery for a symbolic and political effect on the foreign and security lineup. We have to wait to see if Chong Chong-uk, senior presidential secretary for foreign and national security affairs, remains when the Chongwadae [presidential office] reshuffle announcement is made on

22 December, before we can clearly determine the character of the foreign and security lineup of Kim Yong-sam government's second cabinet. The replacement of DPM Han Wan-sang and the entrance of new DPM Yi are significant.

The appointment of DPM Yi is viewed as a move to spread the blame for alleged external influence on the current foreign and security affairs team. As the sentimental basis of our policy on the North is the consciousness of loss of part of our country, the rise of the new DPM Yi, who is from Kangso, south Pyongan Province, and whose family is also separated, alone can disperse unnecessary worries. The argument between the hardliners and moderates, which may be inevitable in the process of establishing and implementing foreign and security policies, often expanded to ideological conflicts in our society. It is generally evaluated that, particularly after DPM Han took charge of reunification policy, the government was often in such an ambiguous situation that it could not plan a bold approach on the North or could insist on a hard-line with principle. Considering the discord between people with an academic background and those in the existing bureaucracy due to the former's lack of working-level experience, Yi's various administrative experiences as the chairman of the Korean Federation of Education Associations and chairman of the Administration Ethics Committee, may have helped secure his DPM appointment. The appointment of DPM Yi is viewed to reflect the will to no longer involve reunification policy and the North in consuming arguments, however, it is a hasty conclusion to simply analyze it as a return to a conservative policy. Many feel there is now a broader range of choices in foreign and security policy. Some also give positive explanations that it is an advance move to promote full-scale and diverse policies on the North.

It is viewed that President Kim appointed DPM Yi to head the current foreign and security lineup members, who are all from academic backgrounds and in their 50's. One of the main reasons for the conflict between the hard-liners and moderates in the foreign and security team was personal competition. DPM Yi, who has been favored for being a senior educator with an outstanding sense of fairness, is expected to collect opinions of different authorities, including the Foreign Ministry, National Board of Unification, Agency for National Security Planning, and Chongwadae, rather than adhere to one opinion in the process of making actual policy decisions. DPM Yi, who is rather new to foreign and security affairs, is expected to stress teamwork and harmony, rather than insist on pros or cons of policy details. It is because DPM Yi may take the role of his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yong-chu, 71, Kim Il-song's brother, and who was recently appointed North Korean vice president, he is expected to be an adviser on reunification to President Kim and serve as a senior and a communications channel of the foreign and security team. However, it is safe to expect that there is little possibility that policy on the North, including the North Korean nuclear issue, will change drastically.

Newly Appointed Cabinet Members Interviewed

Defense Minister on Reform, Scandal

*SK2212040093 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
22 Dec 93 p 30*

[Interview with newly appointed National Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae by reporter Ha Chong-o on 21 December at the office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Yi's previous position]

[Text] [Reporter's Note] Yi Pyong-tae, the national defense minister newly appointed amid the whirlpool of the Defense Logistics Agency's artillery shell swindle case said he will thoroughly inquire into the truth of the case which wasted the people's resources and will severely hold the related people to account regardless of their rank.

[Ha Chong-o] When were you notified of the appointment?

[Yi Pyong-tae] I did not know about it until I heard the cabinet reshuffle announcement at 2 PM. It is a heavy responsibility that the president and the country entrusted me with the extremely important duty at a severe time.

[Ha] What is your usual conviction of national defense policy and the future direction for your work?

[Yi] The first is to establish firm military discipline and to promote morale. Discipline is the Army's pulse, and morale is its life. They are like the wheels that lead the Army. Secondly, I would like to stress strict professionalism of defense personnel. Thirdly, and most importantly, I would like to tell them not to be afraid of reform. Reform of national defense means to create maximum combat capabilities with the resources given by the country, that is, to form an Army that deters war threat in peace time and aims for unfailing victory in war time. Fourth, we have to strengthen the overall activity of the Armed Forces through management through effective management and operation.

[Ha] What is your policy to handle the artillery shell swindle case?

[Yi] After receiving reports and closely examining the truth, the related people will be severely punished regardless of their rank. The problem happened before the inauguration of the new government and I think the settlement is taking too long. Next year's defense budget is 10.764 trillion won which means 910,000 won per household per year. Such cases should not happen if they are aware of the people's burden. I am determined to make thorough investigations and root out the remaining military irregularities.

[Ha] The Army chief of staff is from the same class of the Military Academy with you. Do you have a plan for personnel changes after you take office?

[Yi] I assert that there will be no personnel changes. It is not even a time to mention it. I will definitely display my commanding role as the minister, and I believe they will delightfully accompany.

[Ha] You are a high school alumnus with the president.

[Yi] I only guided him once when he made a consolatory visit to the front during the presidential election campaigning.

Unification Minister on North-South Relations

SK2212033793 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Dec 93 p2

[Article by reporter An Hui-chang on news conference with Yi Yong-tok, deputy prime minister and Unification Board minister, by unidentified reporters in Yi Yong-tok's office at Myongji University in Seoul on 21 December]

[Text] Myongji University President Yi Yong-tok, appointed deputy prime minister and Unification Board minister on 21 December, stressed in the news conference that "The most basic issue concerning the policy on reunification is to turn our society into a morally mature society and an economically rich society that are free of those who are under a false accusation and who bear a grudge." Deputy Prime Minister Yi, who expressed a "unique" appointment view different from preceding ministers, calmly expressed his opinions approximately one hour after the cabinet reshuffle was announced.

[Unidentified Reporter]: Have you ever thought of a plan to make a breakthrough in the North-South relations?

[Yi Yong-tok]: Experiencing the disastrous division situation, we have many experts. If we fully pool the wisdom of the experts and the fellow countrymen, I believe a solution measure will be worked out. I think sophisticated know-how and capability should be mobilized.

[Reporter]: Thus far, there has been such a case as conflicts between ministries over the issues concerning the North and the South. How will you resolve such conflicts in the future?

[Yi]: I will try to know what issues exist. However, I would like to exactly apply the words I delivered when inaugurated as university president. The words were "Let us become one with harmony and peace." I will resourcefully resolve those issues.

[Reporter]: What is retained in your memory from when you were serving as chief delegate to the North-South Red Cross talks?

[Yi]: I vividly remember the North Korean television program I watched during the ninth round of the North-South Red Cross talks held in Pyongyang in 1986. Televising the South Korean university students throwing molotov cocktails and stones and the police taking away the students, an announcer cried out in an excited voice that "It is high time that we all now rise up and achieve reunification." Watching this, I deeply thought that it is the urgent task to establish a reunification foundation in our society through democracy and enrichment.

[Reporter]: To what will you give priority in the policy on reunification?

[Yi]: I view that although the minister has been reshuffled, policies on reunification are not changed. We have accumulated something while we have experienced sufferings. Based on that, I will positively promote dialogue with North Korea and will properly cope with North Korea according to the change of situation.

[Reporter]: What is your opinion about the nuclear issue and nationalism?

[Yi]: Isn't it obvious that North Korea should not possess nuclear weapons? [end Yi]

As to the question that there is a saying "you are too conservative-minded," saying "I cannot refer," Deputy Prime Minister Yi stressed once again that "Although the minister is reshuffled, policies are not changed."

EPB Minister Will Be 'Minister of Action'

SK2212064193 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Dec 93 p 2

[Article by reporter Yi Ki-won on news conference held by Chong Chae-sok, deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board, with unidentified reporters in Seoul on 21 December]

[Text] Chong Chae-sok, newly appointed deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board [EPB], gave a news conference immediately after the announcement of new cabinet appointees on 21 December. In the news conference, he expressed his resolve on assuming his new office, saying, "The work of audit, inspection, reform, and the economy complement each other like the wheels of a vehicle. I intend to be a minister of action tackling and solving items on the priority list in order of importance and urgency." The questions and answers in the news conference follow:

[Unidentified Reporter]: What do you think is the reason for your appointment as deputy prime minister?

[Chong Chae-sok]: It's a surprise. My appointment may have to do with the traffic problem which is causing a serious obstacle to the growth of our economy and to the export of our country, making it necessary for us to place a major emphasis on easing the traffic problem and on expanding social infrastructure. When I started the International Economic Institute 15 years ago, I worked to help the country to prepare for internationalization under the banner of 'Korea in the World.' The activities I was involved in may have contributed to my appointment.

[Reporter]: How will harmony prevail in relations with Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang who is portrayed as reformer and yourself who has long served as an economic official?

[Chong]: I will do my utmost to generate an overall warm atmosphere of vitality in the economic activities. I will help the economic sectors take the lead in renovating the social atmosphere so that a pleasant vitality may prevail in society.

[Reporter]: You served as a government official during a former period of high economic growth. How will you cope with internationalization and the new challenges the nineties?

[Chong]: I think the role of the government should change a lot. Now that the economy has grown, the sharing of roles is necessary. The civilian sector's vigorous businesses should take the initiative in the work connected with economic growth, including exports, so that the government performs a limited function. The government, on their part, should concentrate on investment to expand areas like social infrastructure. The government should give top priority to coping with the problem of farmers, fishermen—the problem of rural areas and fishing villages that will be most affected by the recent decision on market opening. We will then take care of other areas that need appropriate measures.

[Reporter]: How do you expect to maintain relations with the senior presidential secretary for economic affairs?

[Chong]: I think that in this time of trial when not enough united efforts can be made, there should be no friction between us.

[Reporter]: How will you make audit, inspection, and reform harmonize with the economy?

[Chong]: As the president and the prime minister said, these two are mutually complementary. For instance, what is the use of economic growth when law and order is not maintained in society? Some say that audit and inspection and reform are the means to achieving the objective of invigorating the economy, but I think that economic growth in a society lacking law and order only results in additional social friction and side effects. They should be pushed ahead together like wheels, complementing one another.

[Reporter]: Farmers have high expectations for the newly appointed deputy prime minister.

[Chong]: The problem of top priority for the new economic team is how to cope with rural problems exposed through the opening of rice market. I will see to it that agriculture attains self-sustaining capability in the era of openness and that the rural society is rebuilt to become the nest of human life. I am confident that we will be able to achieve this goal as Senior Secretary Kim Yang-pae has been appointed as minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Though I am deputy prime minister, I will assist the minister and vice minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as though a second vice minister of that ministry. I am also a son of a farmer.

[Reporter]: What are the duties of the deputy prime minister?

[Chong]: The foremost problem is the problem of farming and fishing villages, and the next is the problem of traffic congestion and infrastructure. I will place the most emphasis on these two issues while I am deputy prime minister. With the transportation problem as serious as it is today, our exports cannot meet our expectations.

[Reporter]: Won't the fact that you were long out of office before being appointed minister of transportation pose a problem in your performance of duties as deputy prime minister?

[Chong]: My 10 odd years of experience as an ordinary citizen riding busses and the subway instead of working continuously for the government have no doubt helped broaden my view in many aspects.

[Reporter]: What is your resolve as deputy prime minister?

[Chong]: Instead of talk, it is time we take action. I will be a minister of action who will not say much but solve and overcome issues in their order of importance and urgency.

[Reporter]: Some say that the government lacked the necessary aggressive approaches in the rice market issue.

[Chong]: As far as the promotion of national interest is concerned, the result turned out somewhat short of our expectations, but I think that the government, in its own way, has done its best. I think this recent experience will help foster our ability to cope with the forthcoming trend of greater openness.

[Reporter]: How would you appraise the economic team of your predecessor, Yi Kyong-sik?

[Chong]: They managed the economy with the basic tenet of harmonizing growth and stability. My predecessor's team carried out two great tasks in their 10 months in office. They implemented the most difficult task of putting the real name financial transaction system into effect, thus establishing a basic economic framework. They also concluded negotiations on the problem of opening markets, which had been an agonizing problem for several years. Based on this, we now have a national consensus on the course we need to follow. Therefore, I am confident that we will be able to do the job without too much difficulty.

Chong: Leave Export Issues to Private Industries

SK2212111293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1045 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—New Deputy Prime Minister Chong Chae-sok said on Wednesday [22 December] the government will leave matters related to exports and economic growth to private industries.

"Government programs will be focused on those areas which the private sector cannot handle, such as rural issues, expansion of the social overhead capital and redistribution in less developed sectors," Chong said.

In his first press conference, Chong who is concurrent economic planning minister said he would try to maximize private investment in those areas of social overhead capital where private capital can be used.

"I will push ahead with business groups' investment in social overhead capital although their investment has a room for favoritism disputes," the deputy premier said.

He also said that in a policy to help foster industrial activities, the government will move toward removing administrative regulations of industries altogether instead of ending merely in easing them. [sentence as received]

Regarding rural problems, Chong said he fears there is a problem with respect to the farmland ownership system. "I think the farmland ownership problem should be resolved in a way that will boost farmers' assets," he said.

Chong said concrete steps to cope with rural problems will be worked out by the agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister. "But, there should first be a sweeping change in ideas about policies and systems," Chong said.

He further said the government would in the future raise public utility rates without delay if there arises due causes for their upward readjustment.

"We should remember prices were stabilized in the early 1980s thanks to price rationalization made in 1979," the deputy premier said.

YONHAP Announces New Presidential Secretaries

SK2212074093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—Vice Information Minister Yi Won-chong was named senior presidential secretary for political affairs on Wednesday [22 December].

Yi's predecessor, Chu Ton-sik, was moved to senior press secretary and North Kyongsang Provincial Governor Yi Ui-kun was named senior presidential secretary for governmental affairs.

Senior Press Secretary Yi Kyong-chae was made vice information minister.

Choe Yang-pu, vice president of the Korea Rural Economic Institute, was named to the new post of senior presidential secretary for agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries affairs.

Other senior presidential secretaries, including Chief Secretary Pak Kwan-yong, retained their posts.

They are Senior Secretary for Economic Affairs Pak Chae-yun; Senior Secretary for Foreign and National Security Affairs Chong Chong-uk; Senior Secretary for Petitions and Information Kim Yong- su; Senior Secretary for Social, Educational and Cultural Affairs Kim Chong-nam; Senior Secretary for Administrative Affairs Hong In- kil;and Secretary for Protocol (grade one) Kim Sok-u.

Unlike Tuesday's cabinet reshuffle, the changes in the Presidential Secretariat are minor and seem to be a matter of reinforcing the system, led by Chief Secretary Pak, and increasing the efficiency of its operation.

President Speaks at Economy Promotion Meeting

SK2012083193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—An age of unlimited competition is starting and South Korea must use the creativity of its people to raise its international competitiveness in all areas and survive the economic wars, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam told the fifth new economy promotion meeting at Chongwadae on Monday.

Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su briefed the meeting, attended by nearly 290 Expo-related officials such as ruling Democratic Liberal Party Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil, Prime Minister Yi Hoechang, cabinet members and members of the Expo Supporting Special Committee and Trade Committee, on his plans to build on the achievements of the Taejon Expo.

"Based on the national consensus gained during the Expo we are to encouter internationalization and opening with confidence, not with fear, and then use it as momentum to leap into the world and into the future," Kim said.

Kim told the cabinet to assist the Expo commemorative foundation with its projects to spread the order, cleanness and kindness shown during the Expo to the rest of the population.

World Bank Comments on 'High Economic Growth'

SK2112121593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1149 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The high economic growth of South Korea is a success case of policy-led expansion prompted by effective government economic policies, a World Bank report said recently.

According to the Ministry of Finance Tuesday, the World Bank, in a report entitled "The Latest Factors of the Growth of Six East Asian Countries," said South Korea, despite its post-war poor environment, has tripled its GNP in every ten years since 1962.

South Korea's real per-capita GNP has thus increased from one eleventh of the U.S.'s to one third today, the report said.

The rapid expansion, it said, was made possible by Korea's export-oriented economic growth policies such as the prevention of rapid changes in exchange rates and the restraint of financial deficits and wage spiral.

Also behind the fast growth were the policy to foster heavy and chemical industries and the economy-first system.

Other factors contributory to the high growth included high educational passion among Korean people affected by the traditional Confucian culture, said the report, adding that in 1990, for instance, South Korea spent 10 percent of its GNP for educational purpose, an amount 2.5 times as much as the Asian average.

On the other hand, excessive investment in heavy and chemical industries, ineffective use of policy funds and regulation of bank rates have led to the considerable weakening of the monetary sector, the report said.

Defense Chief Denies 'Reshuffle' of Key Officers

SK2212104893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1036 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—New Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae said on Wednesday [22 December] there will be no abrupt or sweeping reshuffle of key military officers.

"If an organization is to grow into a mature setup, personnel stability is most important," Yi said. He made the remarks while meeting with top military leaders at the Ministry.

He was apparently referring to press reports that those several senior military officers who are his military academy seniors or classmate would have to leave.

Minister Yi ordered all major military organizations to form a "seven-day task force team" each to work out recommendations on various problems facing the Armed Forces today.

The new defense minister also hinted at taking a set of sweeping steps to renovate the military organization by saying, "the Armed Forces will hardly earn people's confidence with their existing organization and operation."

Increase in Computer Equipment Exports Predicted

SK2212041893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean exports of computers and computer peripherals, memory chips, and semiconductor equipment could greatly increase as the United States and European Community have agreed to scrap tariffs for these products five years after the Uruguay Round tariff accord takes effect and have asked Korea to join their move, Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry officials said Wednesday.

Korean industry can have high hopes for exports of computer input and output devices to the EC once it scraps its 11-percent tariff on computer monitors.

Bilaterally, Korea and the United States have agreed to non- tariffication of five items of semiconductor equipment that are difficult to home-grow, such as centrifuges and steppers, five years after the world accord takes effect and cut tariffs to 8 percent on items possible for localization from the current 9 percent next year to reach zero by 1999.

Korea is positively studying the U.S.-EC agreement as it can boost shipment of computer monitors, a mainstay of computer input and output devices, to the EC, ministry officials said.

On three other input and output devices, Korea and the United States agreed to scrap tariffs 10 years after effectuation of the agreement.

The United States cuts tariffs on car stereos and recorders, and microwave ovens, while Korea maintains its current rates.

The United States will cut tariffs of 3.7 percent to 2 percent on car recorders, 8 percent to 4.4 percent on car stereos, and 4 percent to 2 percent on microwave ovens.

The ministry, expecting imports of Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASIC) to increase once tariffs on them are eliminated after the period of UR accord observance is over, is to set up an ASIC center to promote the industry.

Newspapers Report Reduction of Markle's Sentence

SK2012022793

[Editorial Report] ROK vernacular newspapers on 17 December report on the Seoul Appellate Court's 16

December decision to reduce to 15 years U.S. serviceman Kenneth Markle's sentence of life imprisonment for killing a South Korean woman.

The moderate CHOSON ILBO on page 30 carries a 100-word article which reports that "The Seoul High Court of Justice, at its appellate court trial on 16 December, gave a decision of 15 years imprisonment to Kenneth Markle, 20, of the ROK-based U.S. Army Second Division, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment at the initial trial on the charge of killing Yun Kum-i, 26, a hostess of a U.S. Army club in Tongduchon."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO on page 31 carries a 200-word straight report on the ruling. The article quotes the court decision that "Defendant Kenneth Markle deserves heavy punishment for brutally killing Yun Kum-i. We, however, reduce the sentence given by the initial trial, in consideration of the U.S. Government's payment of about 70 million won in compensation to her bereaved family after the initial trial."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO on page 31 carries a 150-word article reporting on the Seoul appellate court trial. The article also notes that about 10 members of a 200-member committee organized to "take measures for the Yun Kum-i incident" "protested the court decision violently by throwing some 10 cigarette lighters at Markle and shouting 'Yankee, Go Home.'"

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN on page 22, the pro-government SEOUL SINMUN on page 23, and the independent left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN on page 19 also carry 100-word reports on the Seoul appellate court decision.

All articles merely report the facts of the court decision without additional comment. To date, no editorials or commentaries regarding the appellate court decision have been carried by ROK vernacular newspapers monitored by Seoul Bureau.

Samsung To Build Railway Linking China-Russia

SK2112133093 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 20 Dec 93 p 1

[Excerpt] Samsung Products Company (representative: Sin Se- kil) will participate in large scale social infrastructure construction projects, including the project to build a railway linking China's Hunchun to Russia's Zarubino.

In particular, this project is part of the Tumen River development project under the United Nations Development Program [UNDP]. Therefore, Samsung's participation in this project signifies the fact that in reality domestic companies have started to participate in the Tumen River development project.

The projects Samsung is promoting are the construction of the 65 km railway linking Hunchun to Zarubino; the construction of communication facilities and roads in this region; construction to expand Zarubino Port; and projects to secure sites for commercial rights and building factories.

It is expected that the overall project will amount to around $1 billion. It is being estimated that the railway construction will amount to some $100 million and the expansion project of Zarubino Port will amount to some $300 million.

Samsung reached an agreement in principle with the Chinese side's partner, the Jilin Province Railway and Port Headquarters, to supply equipment for railway construction and communication facilities. Currently, a negotiating team (team leader: Yi Kum-yong, head of the department in charge of China) has been dispatched to Hunchun to carry out the final touches in the negotiations to conclude the contract.

An official of the Korean Trade Promotion Corporation said: "The railway construction project linking Hunchun to Zarubino is not only directly related to the UNDP's Tumen River development project, but as this railway is also linked to North Korea's Najin and Sonbong, this project has important significance in that it will allow our businesses to take part in South-North economic cooperation and in the Tumen River development project." [passage omitted]

Russia Reportedly Cuts Fish Quota for DPRK

SK2212123193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1206 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Vladivostok, Dec. 22 (ITAR-TASS-YONHAP)—Russia has drastically reduced next year's fishery quota for North Korea, setting it at 30,000 tons, a decline of 50 percent from this year's.

This was announced at the end of a Russia-North Korea fishery meeting here in Vladivostok on Wednesday.

A source at the Russian delegation said Russia turned down the North Korean request that the 1994 quota be same as this year's 60,000 tons.

"Our policy in our economic waters is that Russian fishermen's interests should be considered first," a Russian Fisheries Committee official said.

He added that the reduced quota is due partly to the depletion of fishery resources in the Bering and Okhotsk Seas.

This year, Russia has given North Korea a 60,000 ton quota which comprises mostly pollacks and cuttlefish, the official said.

Burma

Energy Minister Receives Japanese Businessmen

BK2112145493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Energy Minister U Khin Maung Thein received the visiting general manager of Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, an adviser from the Kinsho Matashi Corporation, and their party at the minister's office on Minyekyawswa Road at 1400 today. During the meeting, cordial and frank talks were held on matters concerning the production of liquefied natural gas, LNG; construction of a new fertilizer plant; and laying pipelines for offshore natural gas.

1994 Investment Pledges Said To Top $2 Billion

BK2112023693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0123 GMT 21 Dec 93

[by Michele Cooper]

[Text] RANGOON, Dec 21 (AFP)—1994 will begin with more than two billion dollars already earmarked for foreign investment in Burma, the minister for the national planning and economic development, Brigadier General David Abel, said. The foreign investment pledges are in addition to some 78 projects worth more than one billion dollars already under way, Abel said in an interview on Sunday with AFP.

Foreign investors "know that Burma is opening, the situation is stable. They can make money if they invest here," Abel said.

U.S. and Thai companies are the leading investors, pouring in twice as much money as third- and fourth-ranked Singapore and Japan, according to official figures. The Netherlands and Austria lead the European investors.

The oil and gas sector accounts for 381 million dollars, more than one-third of the total, followed by hotels and tourism (287 million dollars) and mining (155 million dollars).

Agriculture, which dominates the domestic economy and is a key sector targeted for future investments, accounts for only 2.69 million dollars in current project.

Livestock and fisheries, forestry and industry are other sectors which have already attracted significant foreign investments, officials said.

Burma welcomes export-oriented businesses "using our resources," the minister said.

Officials acknowledged there were no investment guarantee agreements. They said that, although such guarantees were explicit in the country's laws, the government was studying formal proposals from Singapore and Thailand.

November 1993 ministry review of financial, economic and social conditions for the coming fiscal year, starting April 1, cited the need for tax relief, provisions for repatriation of profits and guarantees against nationalization in order to stimulate foreign investment.

Asked about slow return of foreign banks to Burma Abel said: "We had foreign banks. We nationalized them. We'll have them back again. We won't nationalize them."

To date only representative offices have opened, but Abel said commercial banking services would eventually be authorized "under the Central Bank of Burma."

He asked for "a little more tolerance" from investors and international organizations pressuring the country to review its exchange rates.

The official kyat rate is around six to the U.S. dollar, but the rate on the pervasive black market is 100-130 kyats per dollar.

Karen Spokesman Interviewed on Troops Ambush

BK2212033293 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Report on BBC telephone interview with Dr. M. Martha, spokesman for Karen National Union—place and date not given]

[Text] According to a REUTER report, Karen guerrillas ambushed a Burmese Government military patrol unit, killing two government soldiers and wounding some. The SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] had recently offered to hold peace talks with insurgent organizations. However, the SLORC rejected the offer for talks from the Democratic Alliance of Burma, DAB, which is composed of minority indigenous insurgents, students, and political leaders, and replied that it wished to hold talks with insurgent organizations individually. The BBC telephoned and interviewed Dr. M. Martha, spokesman of KNU [Karen National Union], to ask whether this attack has any special political significance.

[Begin recording] [Martha] First, I would like to say that I have not had any information or communication regarding this report from Manerplaw [KNU headquarters]. It is the responsibility of our army to attack any enemy who enters our territory.

[Unidentified reporter] I asked whether it has any political significance with reference to recent contact between the DAB and the government for peace talks offer. What is the situation since the offer has been made? Does the attack signal the deterioration in situation and what are the peace talks prospects between the DAB and the government? The Burmese people are interested in this matter and wanted to know. Would you inform us on this?

[Martha] When Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt made the announcement [on the peace talks offer] in Loikaw, we believed he was sincere, and we, the DAB, responded accordingly as we genuinely want internal peace and to save the people from their suffering. However, the upper echelon replied they did not want to meet (with DAB). We very much regretted this—regretted it for the people.

Personally, I believe the attack is not related to the matter. So far, we have not received any correspondence form the SLORC. We are waiting for it. I surmise the attack was an accident.

[Reporter] When you say you have not received correspondence from the SLORC, do you mean the correspondence between the SLORC and the DAB has not been cut off completely? Is there any hope of improvement in the situation?

[Martha] The DAB sent four letters to the SLORC, but the SLORC never sent us a letter. We based our letter on the speech made by Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt. So far, we have not received any letter from them. However, we always keep our door open for peace to save the people from their suffering.

[Reporter] We have learned that the United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution denouncing the violation of human rights in Burma and calling for restoration of democracy and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Would the DAB like to comment or criticize on this matter?

[Martha] The DAB wholeheartedly welcomes the resolution of the 47th UN General Assembly. Our feeling is that the UN General Assembly and the Commission for Human Rights has passed one resolution after another, but so far no effective action has been taken. However, this time the secretary general is empowered to act, and we hope something will be done. [end recording]

'Members of Armed Organizations' Surrender

BK2212141093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Members of armed organizations in the jungle who have come to realize their wrongdoings and accept the work being undertaken and the genuine goodwill of the State Law and Order Restoration Council have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering continuously along with their arms and ammunitions at various military camps. From 1 to 6 November, 18 members of armed organizations returned from the jungles to the legal fold. They were warmly welcomed by responsible personnel at the various camps.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Naval Dockyard Signs MOU With German Firm

BK2112134293 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 93 p 6

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thursday—Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd [Private Limited] today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a German firm, Atlas Elektronik, for the supply and servicing of electronic defence equipment for the Royal Malaysian Navy.

Naval Dockyard commercial manager Sulaiman Mat Jam said the MOU would pave the way for better transfer of technology and enable Malaysians to upgrade and modify these electronic equipment in future.

"Since our privatisation in September 1991, we have improved our capabilities. We have emerged the best-equipped yard in the region in repairing electronic and weapon control systems.

"Since we are the main service centre for the Navy, we service the majority of their vessels.

"Atlas Elektronik has been giving us their technical backing and the MOU today will further bring us together as the dockyard would be the authorised service centre for the company.

"At least four experts from the German company will be stationed at our dockyard in Lumut to give on-the-job training to our men so that everything can be done here. Some workers may be sent to Germany for training."

Syed Wafa Syed Fuad, the dockyard's general electronics engineering department manager, said the MOU would allow the downtime for repairs to be drastically reduced and genuine parts to be obtained faster.

Atlas Elektronik's naval division sales manager Walter Nahle, who signed the MOU, said his company was a world leader in supplying electronic defence equipment for naval ships.

"We have supplied equipment for surface ships and submarines for many navies in East Asia. About 60 percent of the electronic components, including chips, are sourced from Malaysia."

Nahle said they were offering the Royal Malaysian Navy sonar equipment, navigational radars, command control systems, simulators for training, and submarine control systems.

Cahaya Arah Maju Sdn Bhd managing director Mohamed Yusuf Kanis said his company had been appointed the local agent for Atlas Elektronik. The firm had been the consultant for the Germans since 1992.

6th Plan Review Shows Solid Economic Growth

Mahathir Praises Progress

BK2012064193 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said yesterday the remarkable progress in Malaysia's economic development in the first half of the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-95) is an eloquent testimony of the strength and resilience of its foundation.

The Prime Minister said this was even more remarkable despite the slowdown in world economy and growing uncertainties in the international economic environment.

Dr Mahathir said: "It is on this strong foundation, that we will continue to build upon to bring the nation's development to greater heights and stature. With the momentum of strong growth having been set during the first three years of the plan, the prospects are favourable for the remaining plan period.

"Real GDP is expected to grow at 8.0 per cent per annum during an overall average growth of 8.1 per cent of the whole plan period. Per capita income in current prices will further increase to RM9,950 [Ringgit Malaysia] or US$8,996 in terms of purchasing power parity in 1995.

"As in the first half period of the plan, expansion in domestic demand will provide the impetus for this growth, particularly in the light of the uncertainties in the international economic environment."

The Prime Minister, in tabling the Mid-Term Review of the Sixth Malaysia Plan yesterday, said the country had entered the Sixth Plan period with confidence, determination and commitment.

He added that when the plan was launched in 1991, the economy was at one of its highest growth levels since the recovery from the recession years before 1987. The overall economic growth in 1990 was 9.7 per cent.

With the momentum for strong growth already set the economy was poised for another cycle of high economic performance. This was reflected by the high rates of domestic savings, rapid growth of exports, increasing productivity and competitiveness as well as price and exchange rate stability.

He said: "While these were indeed very favourable factors to us, I did caution that we should not be too complacent as an open economy such as ours could be easily affected by uncertainties in the world economic environment."

Dr Mahathir said the performance of the Malaysian economy during the first three years of the Plan was indeed remarkable. Despite the overall slowdown of the world economy, the Malaysian economy grew at an impressive rate of 8.1 per cent per annum, exceeding the plan target of 7.5 per cent per annum.

He said the nation could be proud of this achievement as this growth rate was the highest compared with ASEAN and Asian countries, with the exception of China, and far exceeds those of the developed countries.

Per capita income increased from RM6,238 in 1990 to RM8,350 in 1993. In terms of purchasing power parity, it had increased from US$5,416 to US$7,500 during the period.

This increase in income together with rather low inflation enabled Malaysians to enjoy a higher standard of living and a better quality of life.

As anticipated at the outset of the Sixth Malaysia Plan, the rapid expansion of the economy was largely domestic demand driven. In formulating the Sixth Plan the Government has frequently called upon the private sector to be the primary engine of growth for the economy.

"I am indeed proud that the private sector has fully responded to this call as evidenced by its substantial contribution towards spear heading the nation's expansion.

"Private investment grew at an average rate of 13 per cent during the review period, considerably higher than the Plan target of 8.6 per cent.

"This remarkable performance in private investment expansion was largely on account of increases in the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Growth Rate Revised Upward

BK2012072593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 93 p 18

[Text] The economic growth forecast and allocation for Federal Government development expenditure for the remaining two years of the five-year Sixth Malaysia Plan have been revised upwards.

The economy is expected to maintain high growth momentum, expanding by eight per cent per annum in 1994 and 1995. This translates into an overall growth of 8.1 per cent for the whole Sixth Plan period.

It was originally projected that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the Sixth Plan period from 1990 to 1995 would grow by 7.5 per cent annually.

However, the economy has performed better in the past three years, registering an average real growth of 8.1 per cent per annum. Subsequently, per capita GNP also increased from RM6,238 [Ringgit Malaysia] in 1990 to RM8,350 this year.

The report says this growth rate placed Malaysia as the fastest growing nation in Asia, with the exception of China.

Malaysia's high economic growth in the past three years was largely driven by domestic demand, in contrast to external demand which had led growth during the Fifth Malaysia Plan period.

In line with the robust economic growth, the Government has increased the ceiling allocation for the Sixth Plan from RM55 billion to RM58.5 billion to meet higher demand for development expenditure.

During the review period the Government spent about RM29.2 billion or 53 per cent of the original Sixth Plan allocation.

On a sectoral basis, a major portion of the expenditure was channelled into economic and social programmes—accounting for 75.4 per cent of the total amount spent.

Under the economic sector, RM151.1 billion was spent, of which RM4 billion was for agriculture.

The expenditure on infrastructure including transport, communication, energy and water resources, was RM8.6 billion. The implementation of these projects helped ease infrastructure bottlenecks faced as a result of rapid economic growth.

Under the revised allocation, all States will receive additional allocation except Kelantan and Sabah as the Federal Government faces constraints in the implementation capacity in these States.

The Federal Territory and Selangor will receive a substantial share amounting to RM5.6 billion and RM4.4 billion respectively because of several large infrastructure projects.

The allocation of multistate programmes and projects will be increased from RM20.1 billion to RM21.5 billion. Programmes classified under this category include scholarships, feasibility studies and projects such as the KL International Airport in Sepang, highways, railways and the purchase of military equipment.

These projects are classified as multistate programmes as they will benefit the whole nation.

The report adds that the manufacturing sector will remain the backbone of the national economy in the next two years, growing by 11.9 per cent per annum.

The agriculture sector, on the other hand, is projected to grow at a slower rate of 1.6 per cent per annum in line with shift towards industrialisation.

Growth in mining will also remain slow at 1.4 per cent—largely supported by activities in oil production.

Inflation Down; National Savings Up

BK2012073793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 93 p 21

[Text] Malaysia can in fact look forward to favourable economic growth and lower inflation in the next two years.

Besides revising upwards growth figures for the national economy from 7.5 per cent annually to 8.1 per cent during the Sixth Malaysia Plan (SMP), the Report expects inflation to moderate further.

As the Government is committed to achieve rapid growth with low inflation, the review says measures will be instituted to achieve a secular decline in the inflation rate.

During 1990-1993, inflation averaged 4.4 per cent per annum and peaked at 5.4 per cent in September last year. However, no forecast is given of inflation rate for 1994 and 1995.

It adds that for those in the lower income group, the ultimate objective is to realise a zero rate of price increases for goods and services in their consumption basket.

Possible increases in import prices due to the recovery in some industrialised countries, together with some wage hikes, may exert some pressures on prices.

Therefore, the Government will monitor closely price movements and implement additional measures that have been decided by the Special Cabinet Committee on Inflation.

These measures include efforts to expand potential growth, discourage the use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in indexing wages, tolls and tariffs.

Other steps to be taken include improving information on prices through the operation of the Price Information Centre which will collect, analyse and disseminate prices on a weekly basis. In addition, price-tagging will be strictly enforced and consumer campaigns launched with the co-operation of consumer associations to educate the public on prices and inflation.

On resource balance, the Report says the level of national savings is expected to increase to more than 36 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) in 1994 and 1995—with aggregate savings exceeding investment.

This will result in a positive resource balance, thus enabling Malaysia to finance domestic investment without substantially relying on foreign borrowings.

The excess in savings will also be essential to support reverse investments so that domestic industries can establish forward linkages, gain economies of scale, acquire and transfer new technologies, and secure market access for Malaysian goods and services.

The improvement in overall savings is expected to come from a robust growth of private savings, which will account for 24.3 per cent of the GNP.

On the balance of payments, the current account is expected to register a surplus of RM4.6 billion [Ringgit Malaysia] or 1.2 per cent of GNP in 1994 and 1995 compared to a deficit of RM15.2 billion during the review period.

The healthy position is a result of the strengthening merchandise surplus following improved export performance.

However, the services deficit, although declining, will remain substantial at 6.2 per cent of GNP in 1995.

Singapore

New Cabinet Appointments Announced

BK2112145793 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office [PMO] has announced changes in the cabinet and for other office holders. From 2 January next year, Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong will take over as trade and industry minister and give up his portfolio of health and community development. Mr. S. Jayakumar will be the new foreign minister while remaining as law minister. Mr. Wong Kan Seng will become the minister for home affairs. Brigadier General George Yeo will take over as health minister in addition to his present portfolio of information and the arts. He will relinquish his position as the second foreign minister. Mr. Lim Heng Kiang will be promoted to senior minister of state. He will be appointed acting minister for national development and senior minister for foreign affairs. Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi will be the acting minister for community development and the minister of state for the environment. He continues to be the minister in charge of Muslim affairs. From 1 July, Dr. Lee Boon Yang will take over the Defense Ministry in addition to his portfolio of labor. He replaces Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, who has requested to resign from the cabinet. Mr. S. Dhanabalan will leave the cabinet on the second of next month.

The prime minister and the government said they are grateful to Mr. Dhanabalan for helping us at the critical time and for ably discharging his responsibility as trade and industry minister.

The PMO statement said Brig. Gen. Lee Hsien Loong's doctors have confirmed that [words indistinct]. Gen. Lee will remain deputy prime minister in the Prime Minister's Office. He will take over from Mr. Goh Chok Tong the chairmanship of the ministerial economic committee. Mr. Goh has appointed Gen. Lee to oversee the Ministry for Trade and Industry and from 1 July, the Defense Ministry, in addition to his other duties. The statement said Gen. Lee has [words indistinct].

In other changes announced this evening, Dr. Elaine Wong will be the minister of state for health as well as education. At the request of the prime minister, Dr. Ker Sin Tze remains minister of state for education as well as information and the arts until 31 August before returning to the private sector. Commodore Teo Chee Hean, who is now minister of state for finance and communications, will leave the Ministry of Communications from 1 July to join the Ministry of Defense.

Mr. Goh Chee Wee, minister of state for trade and industry and labor, will leave the Labor Ministry for the Ministry of Communications on 1 July. Also, with effect from the second of next month, Mr. Lee Yiok Seng, senior parliamentary secretary will be (?moved) from the Ministry of National Development to the Ministry of Labor; and Mr. Ho Kah Leong, the senior parliamentary secretary for information and the arts to the Environment Ministry. Mr. Matthias Yao Chih will be promoted to a senior parliamentary secretary in the Defense Ministry and Ministry of National Development.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Evasive on Khieu Samphan Meeting

BK2212125393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 22 (AFP)—Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh returned to the capital Wednesday avoiding questions on whether he had met with the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge and saying his father King Norodom Sihanouk's health was "very very good".

The prince travelled to China December 19—after a two day stopover in Thailand where there was much speculation that he met with the radical faction's nominal leader Khieu Samphan—to see King Sihanouk who is undergoing treatment for cancer in a Beijing hospital-.[passage omitted]

Speculation that the meeting was to take place were fuelled when on his arrival in the Thai capital, the prince was whisked away to an unknown destination.

But Thai officials later stated that to their "knowledge" the meeting had not taken place, and added that Khieu Samphan had not been on Thai soil.

Speaking to the Thai daily THE NATION, the prince said: "It was not true that I met him (Khieu Samphan) in Bangkok."

But prior to his departure the prince said suggested the talks take place, not in Bangkok, but at a former royalist stronghold near the Thai border in Cambodia's northwestern Banteay Meanchey province.

Speaking to reporters at the airport here the prince neither confirmed nor denied that the meeting took place.

At a press conference late Wednesday, the prince's Cabinet Director Ly Thuch said he "did not think" a meeting took place but that the prince still wanted talks with the Khmer Rouge, which he saw as crucial to the development of the country.

As an incentive the prince had offered the Khmer Rouge a role in a technical committee on the issue of border demarcation, Ly Thuch (?said.)[passage omitted]

"If they are nationalists, the Khmer Rouge, they have to understand this message. They have to come to the national community and deal with our neighbours about the border problems," Ly Thuch said adding that in order to talk to the country's neighbours, Cambodia had to be strong.[passage omitted]

The prince did not want to negotiate but to talk to Khieu Samphan, he said.[passage omitted]

Planned Offensive Against Khmer Rouge Denied

BK1712085593 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0405 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, 17 Dec (AKP)—Twelve persons have been killed in a clash between the government forces and the Khmer Rouge guerrillas in the northwestern part of the country, said a senior Army officer of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC].

Eight government troops, three Khmer Rouge soldiers, and a civilian were found dead after a half-hour engagement at the Tala Bridge, about 5 km from Banteay Meanchey Province's Sisophon town, on the night of 15 December, said Lieutenant General Chea Mon, deputy commander of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces Division 4. The Khmer Rouge guerrillas blew up the bridge on National Route 5 after midnight.

The guerrillas have begun to replant mines in two western provinces and ship ammunition into the central region of the country, said a senior RGC official.

Mr. Khieu Kanharit, state secretary for information, said at a news conference on 15 December that "the Khmer Rouge were probably anticipating attacks by government forces in Battambang and Pursat Provinces." "We have no plan," he added, "to launch a general offensive; on the contrary, the Khmer Rouge are currently planting mines everywhere."[passage omitted]

KRAF, Khmer Rouge Operations in North, West

BK2112135093 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Excerpt] According to a report from the Third Department of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] General Staff, from 12 to 19 December, every KRAF unit, military region, division, and operational zone successfully carried out its duty to defend its zone and the people. As a result of their operations, 25 Democratic Kampuchea [DK] soldiers were killed, 15 others were captured, 45 weapons were seized, and 37 DK officers and men were persuaded to defect.[passage omitted]

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1236 GMT on 21 December, citing a Cambodian Government military report, adds that the DK casualties included the commander of the faction's 980th Division. AFP adds: "In one river skirmish south of the contested town of Stoung, which straddles the strategic national route six running from Kompong Thom town to Siem Reap, government troops attacked three boats containing guerrillas posing as fishermen. Five of the 25 Khmer Rouge were killed in this battle and six weapons and one of the boats were seized. One of the 15 guerrillas who were arrested was caught carrying eight hand grenades and was accused of spying on government positions around Stoung."

[AFP continues: "Government forces also discovered a Khmer Rouge arms cache consisting of 60 B-40 and 100 B-41 rockets."

[AFP continues: "Meanwhile the guerrillas had increased their activities over the same period in northwestern Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap provinces and in northern Preah Vihear, attacking government positions, destroying bridges and laying mines on the roads, the military report said. A general sense of insecurity was preventing peasants from harvesting their rice in some of the worst hit areas."

[AFP continues: "Government troops in the military volatile Mong Russey district of Battambang came under attack from some one hundred guerrillas December 15 but managed to repel the attackers, it said."]

Interior Ministry Reaffirms Demonstrations Law

BK2012133593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 20 Dec 93

["Article" signed by Sar Kheng and Yu Hokkri, co-ministers of the interior—read by announcer]

[Text] The co-ministers of the interior would like to brief city and provincial governors throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia on the following subject: The right of citizens to stage peaceful demonstrations.

In light of Articles 35, 37, and 139 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, dealing with the rights and duties of Cambodian citizens; and the provisions of Article 139 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, stipulating that all laws and standard documents in Cambodia that safeguard state property, rights, freedoms, and an individual's lawful property and conform with the national interest remain in effect until altered or abrogated by new texts, except those provisions that are contrary to the spirit of the Constitution;

To safeguard the right of citizens to participate in political, economic, and cultural activities and to ensure public safety and maintain public security and order throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia;

The Interior Ministry would like to issue the following instruction to ensure correct implementation of the former State of Cambodia's Law on Demonstrations, which is dated 27 December 1991 and still in effect. Municipal and provincial authorities throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia should disseminate this law and post it at all subdistrict, ward, precinct, district, provincial, and municipal offices for the information of the citizens. The law reads as follows:

Law on Demonstrations:

Article 1: Meetings and gatherings that turn into demonstrations may be held. Meetings, gatherings in public places or public thoroughfares, and street demonstrations that might affect public peace, order, or security, however, are absolutely prohibited.

Article 2: A street demonstration held to express an opinion on a specific problem may only be held under the following conditions:

1. If there is no violence, no arms, and it is not a situation that might cause danger;

2. If it does not harm public peace, order, or security;

3. If written notification is made to the authorities in each subdistrict and precinct through which the demonstration will proceed at last three days in advance. This should include the family names, first names, addresses, and signatures of the organizers and declare the objective of the demonstration, its location, date, the hour that it will be held, the streets it will go through, and the number of demonstrators.

If the demonstration will be held in a provincial seat or the capital, written notification must be made to the authorities in the provincial seat or the capital.

Article 3: The authorities receiving the notification will issue a receipt in return. If the authorities concerned judge that the demonstration might cause chaos, they may disapprove it by issuing a decision within 48 hours and notifying the organizers of their decision. A copy of the decision will be forwarded to the higher authorities within 24 hours in case of refusal. The demonstration's organizers may lodge a protest with higher authorities. The higher authorities will consider the protest and decide whether or not they will permit the demonstration to be held and will inform the plaintiffs of their decision within 24 hours.

Article 4: When a demonstration takes place without prior notification to the local authorities or without their permission, the local authorities will take steps to stop the demonstration on the spot. If the demonstrators persist and refuse to cease their activity after twice being ordered to desist, the local authorities will take steps to break up the demonstration by non-lethal means.

Article 5: If the demonstrators are armed or dangerous, the security forces have the right to seize the arms. If the demonstrators resist and refuse to surrender same, the security forces have the right to temporarily detain the demonstrators. When the demonstration dissolves, the detainees will be freed and their arms returned, unless other offenses have been committed.

Article 6: If a peaceful demonstration degenerates into a violent demonstration or riot, competent authorities will take the most suitable steps to stop it. The measures described in Article 4 will be implemented first.

Article 7: Any demonstrator who uses violence, causes damage to other people's property or public property, or causes injuries or loss of life to other people or to officials on duty will be punished by existing law according to the gravity of their crimes.

Impostors and those who instigate demonstrators into violence will be punished by existing laws as described above.

Article 8: Officials on duty who commit offenses that cause damage to the people's property or public property or injuries or loss of life will be punished under existing laws according to the gravity of their crimes.

Article 9: Anyone who takes advantage of a demonstration to commit a theft, robbery, or other offense will be punished by existing laws according to the gravity of their crimes.

Article 10: Compensation for damage caused by a demonstration will be made by the concerned provincial or municipal budget departments. If damage is caused by the mistake or negligence of the victims, compensation for the damage will be reduced or nullified. If competent authorities identify the offenders, the provincial or municipal authorities may press charges to make the offenders pay the provincial or municipal budget departments for repairs for the damage.

Article 11: This law is declared urgent. This law was passed by the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia on 27 December 1991 during an extraordinary session of the first legislature.

Governors and royal government delegates in provinces and cities are asked to implement the above-mentioned law effectively.

Regime Aids Traders Against Foreign Investors

BK2012142293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 20 Dec 93

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 20 (AFP)—Cambodian traders protesting outside Parliament about "exorbitant" rents in a Thai-owned shopping centre got government backing Monday.

"We will not allow any foreign investors to choke the necks of small business people," Finance Minister Sam Rangsi said to cheers from a 1,000-strong crowd.

The demonstrators were protesting rents being charged for stalls in a new shopping centre recently completed by the major Thai Bun Rung consortium. The demonstration was twice the size of a similar one two weeks ago.

The protest came amid a Cambodian backlash at perceived unscrupulous Thai businessmen said to have cut benefical deals with corrupt officials of the former Phnom Penh administration.

An old vendor in tears said she was widowed when the Khmer Rouge slaughtered her husband, and pleaded for help from the finance minister. "I would rather die here now than let the Thais slowly strangle me to death," she said.

But a Thai Bun Rung executive defended the company's rates. "Our company wants to rent stalls at between 32 and 72 U.S. dollars a month, or 6,000 dollars for 15 years," he said.

When confronted with these rentals, the protestors said they had never been told about monthly rents but only about the 15-year rates.

They also produced a detailed price list bearing the Thai Bun Rung group's name, showing that 6,000 dollars was the mimimum rent. And that was for a fruit and vegetable stall in one of the worst locations in the three-storey market.

The asking price for prime locations to sell building materials or electrical goods was 110,000 and 150,000 dollars respectively, while the right to sell cigarettes in the same area would cost 16,000.

The average annual income in Cambodia is around 270 dollars.

Protestors said there was no way they could raise the huge sums required.

"Your excellency, I will have to sell my husband to get the money for the Thais," one woman told Sam Rangsi.

The minister promised the people "justice". "Justice means that we (the government) must protect the people and the national interest. We must let the small and poor traders like you continue your business at a reasonable price," he said.

He urged demonstrators to go home and said the government would not let them "continue suffering like this".

On Sunday, the Thai-owned Floating Hotel, which was moored on the Tonle Bassac adjacent to the royal palace, was finally tugged upriver nearly a month after it was ordered to move for "aesthetic reasons".

Secretary of State for Information Khieu Kanharit said the hotel would receive no compensation for any losses suffered by the move as the owners had made the "mistake" of not signing an official contract with the government.

The giant Thai Chinnawat communications group, which operates Cambodia's IBC television, has also come under fire for similar reasons.

It was criticised for a bias towards Thailand after being accused of ignoring the previous protest about the market.

National Development Council Established

BK2212085993 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Order of the Royal Government" issued in Phnom Penh and signed on 15 December by Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, first and second prime ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia—read by announcer]

[Text] Having seen the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia;

Having seen the royal decree of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia, dated 1 November 1993 concerning the appointment of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC];

And with reference to the urgent tasks of the RGC, the RGC decides:

I. To establish a national council called the Cambodian Development Council, or CDC in abbreviation. The composition of the CDC is as follows:

1. Chairman: Prince Krompreah, the first prime minister;

2. Vice Chairman: his excellency the state minister in charge of rehabilitation and development;

3. Member: the prince deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation;

4. Member: his excellency the state minister and minister of public works and transport;

5. Member: his excellency the state minister in charge of culture, fine arts, landscaping, and urbanization;

6. Member: his excellency the state minister and minister of economy and finance; and

7. Member: his excellency the minister of planning.

The CDC also has a secretary general with the duty of coordinating the work in general.

II. The CDC is to establish two auxiliary national committees, namely, the National Committee for Rehabilitation and Development, NCRD, and the National Investment Committee, or NIC.

III. The duty of the CDC is as follows:

Item 1. To prioritize national requirements in restoration and development for the present period and for short-term, medium-term, and long-term periods so as to create a joint concept and program for the restoration and development of Cambodia. This program must be based on an intertwined and synchronized system.

Item 2. To set the direction for the distribution and supply of resources secured in the country and those from abroad for use in the restoration and development of Cambodia.

Item 3. To control and coordinate the reception of foreign aid, including bilateral and multilateral aid, as well as aid from international and nongovernment organizations, so that it accords with the needs of the country and with the Cambodian restoration and development program.

Item 4. To work out laws and standard documents related to investment, restoration, and development work for distribution to the national and international investors and the ministries and institutions concerned.

Item 5. To create suitable conditions for and provide all-around information to investors concerning the agencies in Cambodia that they must contact and investment laws and regulations; and to give recommendations to the ministries and the capital, municipal, and provincial institutions so that they can cooperate effectively with investors.

Item 6. To coordinate between the investors and the different ministries and capital, municipal, and provincial institutions so that they can cooperate effectively with investors.

Item 7. To present a definitive report on the situation concerning the implementation of the investment, restoration, and development work in all aspects to the Council of Ministers at a set time.

IV. The composition of the CDC covers the following fields of work:

A. To restore and develop the infrastructures that serve agriculture, industry, tourism, services, rural development, environmental protection, and the general well-being of the people.

B. To develop national resources and control and protect the environment.

C. To control national and international investment.

V. The CDC must arrange the administrative structure, composition, and internal regulations of the NCRD and the NIC so that they can operate effectively. The NCRD and the NIC are supervised by their own secretaries general. Their members are chosen from among the experts. The NCRD and the NIC have the right to make decisions on their normal operations under the daily guidance of the CDC's vice chairman with the consent of the secretary general of the CDC and the secretaries general of the NCRD and the NIC.

In extraordinary cases or when there are differences of opinion, the vice chairman must secure the overriding decision of the Prince Krompreah chairman of the CDC.

VI. The CDC must hold a weekly meeting in the presence of its chairman or vice chairman, if the former is absent.

VII. The secretary general of the CDC may have a number of aides, if needed.

VIII. The chairman of the CDC may invite high-ranking officials of different ministries and institutions not permanently represented in the council to take part in discussions and help coordinate investment, restoration, and development work when necessary.

IX. All past orders and decisions contrary to this order are considered null and void.

X. All ministries, institutions concerned, and the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Council are charged with implementing this order as of the day it is signed.

Indonesia

Students Demand Review of Suharto's Leadership

Protest at House of Representatives

BK2112053493 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 15 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Troops dispersed around 50 students who were demonstrating yesterday to demand that the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) convene a special session to evaluate President Suharto's leadership.

Security forces in anti-riot gear arrested over 20 of the protesters at the House of Representatives (DPR) at 2 p.m. after a brief scuffle.

The troops clubbed and kicked the student demonstrators who were waiting to meet with the ABRI [Armed Forcers of the Republic of Indonesia] faction in the House. The protesters scattered as the troops swept them out and onto a waiting truck. Some sustained bruises.

"I was kicked in the back three times as I was trying to get away," Gugun Daud, a student from the Surabaya-based Airlangga University, said.

The protesters of the Front for Indonesian Students' Action came from various universities in Java Sumatera, Sulawesi and Bali to congregate in the foyer of the House, reading statements and verses and singing songs in criticism of the Suharto administration.

Last night, the Front issued a list of 26 activists whom it said had been detained following the clash at the DPR in the afternoon.

The demonstration was unusually forthright in its direct criticism of the president. Banner-waving students charged the government with suppressing pro-democracy movements.

In a written statement, the protesters said the government has been involved in gross violation of human rights, such as extrajudicial detention, eviction of the poor and intervention in labor disputes.

They blamed the government for controversial incidents, such as the killings of members of a Moslem group in Majalengka, West Java, and villagers in Madura, East Java, both occurring this year, and the shooting of at least 50 demonstrators in Dili, East Timor, in 1991.

Many of the demonstrators were also involved in a similar protest at the state secretariat last week. Among them were Dedy Ardian and Yeni Damayanti, who were only just released after being arrested at that demonstration.

The raid apparently surprised the demonstrators who observed that there was a minimum presence of security forces in the morning when they met with House member Sabam Sirait from the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI). He said PDI shared the students' concern. "The PDI believes that the Indonesian political system must be overhauled to allow greater democracy," Sabam said.

Before yesterday's incident, both the government and the military said recent demonstrations were still within acceptable limits since they had not created public disturbances.

Armed Forces (ABRI) Chief General Feisal Tanjung, during a hearing with the House of Representatives Commission I on security affairs on Monday, however, warned that the authorities would act swiftly the moment the borderline between protest and riot is crossed.

He noted that these protests were now reaching what he called "near the limit of our political culture."

Coordinating Minister of Political Affairs and Security Susilo Sudarman warned earlier yesterday on a separate occasion that certain parties were taking advantage of these demonstrations so that they are no longer "pure" in terms of motivation.

Asked to comment on Monday's student protest demanding the resignation of Minister of Home Affairs Yogi S. Memet because of the way he handled the bloody incident in Nipah, East Java, Susilo responded: "Surely they have the right to speak. If we muzzle them, then we'll be charged with violating their basic rights."

He added, however, that people should not abuse the greater political openness now being fostered in the country. "Openness yes, but it entails responsibility."

Both Feisal and Susilo said the government is now considering legislation that regulates street demonstrations.

Susilo noted that demonstrations are regulated in other countries.

21 Students To Be Tried

BK2212081293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Recent protesters at the House of Representatives building will be immediately brought to trial on charges of insulting the presidency. Major General Kusparmono Irsan, deputy chief of operations for the Republic of Indonesia Police, told reporters in Surabaya today that the authorities are detaining 21 students, who protested at the House of Representatives building, for insulting the presidency. He said a criminal act could take place anywhere, including at the House of Representatives building. Those committing a criminal act will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Touching on the possible involvement of a third party in the case, Kusparmono Irsan said this will depend on the coming trial.

Former Political Prisoners' Restraints Studied

BK2112054393 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 15 Dec 93 p2X

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The Armed Forces (ABRI) Chief General Feisal Tanjung says the military has no objection to reducing the restrictions imposed on former political prisoners and their relatives.

Feisal said at a hearing with the House of Representatives (DPR) Commission I that he agrees with a proposal to revoke the special codes that require information on Identity Cards [ID] that mark their holders as former political prisoners or the relative of one.

"There is no security problem in revoking those codes," he told the hearing on Monday night.

Human rights organizations have been urging the government to ease the restrictions on former political prisoners, given that they have all served their time in prison.

The special codes on the ID cards have prevented many of them from obtaining jobs and various services. Their children have also been the subject of discriminative treatment.

Many former members of the now banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) and their relatives carry ID cards that bear the code ET (former political organization) or OT (banned organization).

The government has defended the use of these codes to facilitate the monitoring of their movements.

The issue was raised by a number of Commission I members at the hearing on Monday.

Feisal said that since the codes are based on a decree from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the ultimate decision on their fate lies with the ministry.

Theo Sambuaga, the deputy chairman of Commission I, nevertheless applauded Feisal's announcement.

"The Chief's statement reflected an improvement in Indonesia's security matters. Gen. Feisal has told us that the nation's stability does not have to be supported by such measures anymore," said Theo, who is a member of the government's Golkar [Functional Group] political grouping.

During the ensuing question and answer session; some commission members posed politically sensitive questions about security and political matters that moved Feisal to ask for a half-hour break to prepare answers.

Four members asked him about allegations that ABRI has taken sides in the long drawn dispute within the Toba Batak Protestant Church (HKBP).

"We heard complaints from visiting clergywomen that soldiers had been preventing them from praying in their church. The women also said those officers clearly supported one particular side in the church's conflict," said Marcel Beding, a PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party] member.

Feisal responded that the military has kept its role simply to ensure order. He promised however that he will investigate the allegations of involvement.

Legislator Didiet Haryadi Priyohutomo from the Golkar faction questioned the role of State Minister of Research and Technology B.J. Habibie in the procurement of weaponry, including the purchase of 39 warships from the arsenals of the former East Germany.

Editorial on Labor Union, National Development

BK2212061193 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 7 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Workers are Performers of National Development"]

[Text] Vice President Try Sutrisno opened the second national working meeting of the All Indonesian Workers' Union (SPSI) in Jakarta on 6 December. He said that the workers' rights and responsibilities are inter-related. The employees and employers need each other, and they should attempt to create a work climate conducive to forging cooperation and brotherhood so that all cases could be settled amicably. The two sides should maintain a balance, an appropriate, rational, and propotional partnership.

We feel that the vice president's statement on the workers' position is relevant to the recent incidence of labor disputes and demonstrations staged by workers demanding higher wages to improve their livelihood. The workers' demonstrations are due to the differences of opinions and perceptions between the workers and their employers.

Try Sutrisno tactfully explained that the workers, employers, and the government should continue to strictly observe the Pancasila principles on industrial relations in efforts to make national development successful. They are based on familial spirit, togetherness, openness and fairness for the sake of national interest. The SPSI and all the Indonesian workers are part of the national fighting force responsible for national development.

The workers are human resources that perform the work for national development. Their optimal responsibility is required to make national development a success. On the other hand, the workers are also human beings that should be placed proportionally in the context of national development. The employers and the workers should work side by side to boost productivity. A high degree of responsibility, dedication and discipline will boost the workers' creativity and productivity, which in turn will increase their income and improve their welfare.

The vice president reminded that the work and workers should not be viewed merely as part of the economic tools because they perform integral functions in society as human beings as well. The public welfare will only be achieved through hard work carried out with great perseverance and a high degree of responsibility.

After reviewing the armed forces commander's statement, we begin to question our own judgement on the recent incidence of workers' demonstrations and their demand for better treatment from their employers. Obviously, economic gain is not the only answer to the cause of the workers' protests. Their ideology must have prompted them to do likewise.

The armed forces commander highlighted a deep ideological and philosophical approach to the current lack of harmony in industrial relations which eventually lead to disputes.

It is hoped that the SPSI would recognize and apply the Pancasila principles on industrial relations to maintain harmonious industrial relations. This is because the role of the SPSI is not just to perform the conventional functions of directing the aspirations of workers and protecting the workers and their rights. The SPSI should also contribute to national development.

Speaking at the same function, Manpower Minister Abdul Latif expressed his support for the establishment of the SPSI. On the other hand he said that SPSI, as an organization, must play a more active role to improve the workers' welfare and boost productivity for the sake of increasing industrial and economic development in Indonesia. It is the workers' right to establish a labor union professionally and this should be handled by the workers themselves.

We agree with the minister's opinion on the absolute right to establish labor unions based on the principle of "from, by and for" for the workers. In this connection, the 1993 Guideline of State Policies (GBHN) for the next five years have directed that under the second phase of the long-term development plan, our economic growth should be supported by more productivity and efficiency as well as by improved human resources. It is hoped that the SPSI could implement the new objectives to develop the work force. Among the things that the SPSI could do is to review the systems of Pancasila industrial relations so that they are applicable to the union, and to meet the workers' demand for a realistic wage scale. Of course, this is not an easy task, considering that one of the impacts of economic globalization is the stiff competition in the manpower sector, especially among countries that are financially dependent on foreign investment.

Results of GATT Talks 'Cautiously' Welcomed

BK2112054293 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 17 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia cautiously welcomes the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

State Minister of National Development Planning Ginanjar Kartasasmita said here yesterday that the global trade treaty will create more export opportunities for the country.

But he warned that the removal of trade barriers will result in fiercer competition both on domestic and overseas markets.

"Local producers must be ready to face stiffer competition both at home and in foreign markets," Ginanjar who is also the chairman of the National Development Planning Board, said.

He said he was optimistic that Indonesia would be able to continue to increase the volume of its non-oil exports despite the increased competition resulting from the gradual dismantling of tariff barriers under the new trade accord reached by the 117 signatories of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

An important achievement in the GATT negotiations for Indonesia is the gradual integration of the textile and clothing sector into the global trade treaty.

Textile trade is now subject to bilateral negotiations governed under the Multi-Fiber Arrangement (MFA), allowing the major countries to resort to imposing unilateral quotas on their trading partners.

There will now be a gradual dismantling of the MFA and the integration of the textile and clothing sector into the new GATT rules within 10 years after the trade treaty becomes effective next year.

Benny Sutrisno, the secretary-general of the Indonesian Textile Association, said that the trade accord will, in the long-term, benefit Indonesia's textile exports due to the wider export opportunities resulting from the dismantling of trade restrictions currently imposed by the United States, Canada and European countries.

He also warned, however, that Indonesia should be prepared to anticipate growing competition as the negative impact of the gradual reduction of tariff barriers.

Vinod Laroya, the president of PT [Company Limited] Indo-Rama Synthetic, supported Benny's optimistic view, but said that other major textile and garment producing countries such as Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand, will also become beneficiaries of the GATT deal.

Indonesian textile producers, which at present benefit from lower import duties for a number of textile-related products from major importers, must prepare themselves to enter the free market era, he said.

"The GATT accord will, indeed, create a bigger market but we must be very careful because Indonesia has to be able to compete within the same business climate," he said.

Laroya said he remains up beat that Indonesia's textile products will remain more competitive due to lower production costs at the country' plants.

Benny called on the government to offer more incentives to further improve the competitive edges of the country's export- oriented industries.

"The production cost of the country's industries remain high despite our cheaper labor due to high expense for non-production activities," he said.

He said that the government should, for example lower telephone and electricity rates for larger production plants to help them reduce overhead costs.

I. Nyoman Muna, a noted analyst of the economy, said that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks mean fiercer competition for Indonesia's export-oriented industries.

He said local plants will be able to benefit from the easier market access if both the government and the private sector are able to readjust their business policies in line with the free market mechanism.

"If there is no improvement in our competitive edges don't expect that we will be able to gain more access in the global market. Our local market could be, instead, controlled by foreign producers," he said.

Nyoman said Indonesia should also be prepared for the fact that non-tariff barriers, including those in the form of quality standardization and "eco-labeling", could still impede the country's exports despite the GATT treaty, which gradually abolishes import duties.

The negative impact of the dismantling of restrictions in services, including banking, insurance, transportation and surveying, under the GATT deal could be the most difficult things Indonesia has to face.

He said both the government and companies involved in those services must improve their professionalism in order to be able to lessen the negative impact.

Burma's Khin Nyunt Arrives on 'Goodwill Visit'

BK2112143893 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] At the invitation of Ir. [academic title corresponding to engineer] Hartarto, Indonesian coordinating minister for industrial and trade affairs, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, left Yangon [Rangoon] on a special plane at 0700 on 20 December for a goodwill visit to Indonesia. He arrived at Halim Perdanakusumah Airport in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia at 1320 local time.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt and the Myanmar [Burmese] delegation were welcomed at the airport by Ir. Hartarto, coordinating minister for industrial and trade affairs; Mr. Joop Ave, tourism, post, and telecommunications minister; Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Nyunt Tin; Military Attache Colonel Nyo Win; embassy personnel; relatives; Indonesian Ambassador Police General Mohamed Sanusi; and responsible personnel.

Laos

Politburo Adviser Views Friendship Bridge

BK2012021793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Dec 93 p A1, A3

[Excerpts] Senior Laotian leader Phoumi Vongvichit, apparently reflecting his countrymen's cautious attitude toward neighbouring capitalist Thailand, believes the Thai-Lao "Friendship Bridge" will benefit bilateral ties, but says Vientiane is not considering building other bridges over the Mekong at the moment.

He said the bridge, to be opened in April, will benefit both countries and help facilitate the exchange of views and culture, thus fostering intense and lasting friendships between people on both sides of the river.

Laos and Thailand are "lasting brother nations" because they share the same language and culture, said the senior adviser to both the Laotian Government and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP).

But while stressing the need for Thailand to assist Laos in its economic transformation and development Phoumi said his country has yet to consider whether more "friendship bridges" are needed.

"(First) we have to consider both the positive and negative impacts" of the first bridge, he said.[passage omitted]

Phoumi said Vientiane is fully aware of the dangers and has a policy to preserve its historical culture, family institutions and social structures.

The 85-year-old Laotian statesman was speaking during a rare public appearance on Saturday at which he welcomed 180 professors and students from Thammasat University on a two-day study tour. He greeted them warmly and consented to an equally rare one hour question-and-answer session.

"The bridge will benefit both sides. I will facilitate communications and visits by people of the two countries ... It will make exchanges of views and culture easy and foster fonder friendship between people on both sides of the river," said Phoumi, a member of the politburo member [as published] and one of the LPRP founders.[passage omitted]

"(But) we want to assess the positive and negative impacts after the bridge is opened. We need to see the economic situation, to see if there are any difficulties or inconveniences in assisting trade and communications... Then we will discuss whether there will be another bridge," he said.[passage omitted]

"We have to preserve our culture and language, which have been passed on from our ancestors. We are afraid that we will lose them ... We support the learning of foreign languages because we have to use them to communicate with foreigners, but we also have to learn and preserve our Lao language ... We have to preserve our culture but also have to learn about other cultures and select those which can get along with our culture," he said.[passage omitted]

Rice Shortage Reported in Savannakhet, North

BK2112142593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Excerpts] In 1994, some 700,000 inhabitants of Savannakhet Province will be short 83,522 tonnes of rice. Rice production is failing to meet production targets. The province encountered a prolonged severe drought during the annual rice production season, especially in Phin, Thapangthong, Sepon, Sonnabouli, Nong, and Khanthabouli Districts. Only 169,651 tonnes of paddy have been harvested this year while the need for rice consumption in the province is estimated to be 247,800 tonnes. [passage omitted]

It was also reported that rice plants on 1,270 out of 4,285 hectares of ricefields and rice terraces have also been severely ravaged by drought during the production season in Sam Neua District, Houa Phan Province. Only 9,730 tonnes of paddy have been harvested. It is predicted that the district inhabitants will face a rice shortage for four months in 1994.

Nam Ngum Electricity Production Surpasses Plan

BK2112090693 Vientiane KPL in English 0823 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Vientiane, Dec 21 (KPL)—The Nam Ngum hydro-power station this year has generated 844.4 million kwh, surpassing the annual plan by 22.8 percent. Part of the output has been exported and brought back an income of U.S. dollars 19.1 million and earned an income of 5.9 billion kip from the domestic services, reports "VIENTIANE MAI" newspaper today.

According to Houmphon Bouli-gnaphon, director of the Electricite du Laos (EDL), the electricity generation by the Nam Ngum hydro- power station sees a better trend than in the past seven years ago. [passage omitted]

Satellite-Relay TV Station Set Up in North

BK2112145193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] The installation of a satellite-relay television signal transmitter-receiver facility in Luang Namtha Province was completed on 17 December after one-week of work. The work was carried out by the provincial information and culture service with cooperation from the (Nguan Li) Company, which is attached to the PRC's Xishuanbanna region radio and television broadcasting station.

The facility consists of a satellite signal-receiving dish, a signal-transmitting attenna, two signal receivers, and two signal transmitters with 10-watt power. Each is capable of transmitting television signals within a 10-km radius. The total construction cost of the facility was more than 10 million kip. The province plans to broadcast television programs on regional news and features for three hours a day.

Philippines

Assassination Plot Against Ramos in U.S. Alleged

BK2212080693 Manila THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 19 Dec 93 p 4

[By Booma Cruz and Manny Mogato]

[Text] There was an "alleged attempt" to kill President Ramos while he was visiting the United States last month, according to a confidential report reaching the military.

The attempt was to have been made while the president was in Los Angeles, the report said.

The Presidential Security Group (PSG), which guarded Mr. Ramos during his 14-day swing across the United States, confirmed it received reports of a plot by anti-government groups to kill the president during his meeting with the Filipino-American community at the L.A. Stadium.

Avelino Razon, PSG deputy commander, said they got information about the plot five days before the president's scheduled arrival in Los Angeles.

"We could not take any information like that lightly because it involved the president's life," Razon told CHRONICLE, adding that they immediately coordinated with the U.S. Secret Service in checking out the information.

"It could just be mere rumor. We got no reliable leads and the Americans' effort to trace the report also ended empty. Anyway, nothing happened during the trip," he said.

Lending credence to the confidential report, which was shown to the CHRONICLE, was the several revisions of President Ramos' itinerary in Los Angeles.

Members of the media who covered the visit were initially advised that the president would be leaving Seattle for Los Angeles at 2 AM and arrive there early in the morning for a meeting with the Filipino community.

Reporters were told to be ready to leave for the airport at 8:30 PM but the time was later changed to 10:30 PM.

In the end, the media contingent left before 10:30 PM.

No official explanations were given for the changes in the schedule.

The president slept overnight in Los Angeles—a complete change from the original itinerary.

Reporters stayed at the Philippine Consulate in the absence of a booking in Los Angeles, where the presidential party was supposed to stay for only a few hours, from breakfast until before lunch.

In New York, a middle-aged Filipino-American was detained and questioned for several hours by the U.S. Secret Service after the president's security escorts found him carrying a gun while on his way to Javits Center in Manhattan where Mr. Ramos was to meet with Filipino-American community leaders.

A close-in aide of the president who was with him in New York said the man hid his weapon under a camouflage jacket.

The Filipino-American was arrested even before the president arrived at Javits Center, where a group of New York-based Filipinos held a demonstration asking Mr. Ramos to "stop the mail-order bride racket."

President Ramos got to the Javits Center ahead of schedule after the U.S. Secret Service agents advised him to skip a meeting with toy and garments manufacturers at The Plaza.

Because it was the day of the New York marathon, the president's party was escorted from the Riverside Church to the Javits Center, where he was expected only at 4 PM.

Mr. Ramos arrived there at around 2 PM. Officials told reporters that the change in schedule was prompted by the anticipated traffic jam resulting from the marathon. At the Javits Center, Secret Service men were so strict they barred even Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Cesar Sarino, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, and Philippine Retirement Authority Chairman Luis Sison.

Regional Mechanisms Use Urged in Spratlys Issue

BK2112092393 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 16 Dec 93 p 12

[By Paul N. Villegas]

[Text] The disputed claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea won't become an "open arena" of conflict among its claimant nations in the "near future" because of the "mechanisms and systems of regional resilience which are being built and developed" by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a high-ranking official of the Indonesian Government said yesterday.

Speaking before delegates to the "East-Southeast Asia" conference at the EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, Theo L. Sambuaga, an Indonesian parliamentarian, said mechanisms like the ASEAN Regional Forum provide the venue where claimant nations can "settle" their differences.

Since most of the claimant countries are ASEAN members, Mr. Sambuaga believes that "settlement" will always be connected to the greater interest of ASEAN solidarity.

"Under the systems and mechanisms maintained so far in which interdependency is so great, it seems difficult to imagine that a country will dare to take risk in the face of all other ASEAN countries," he said.

Mr. Sambuaga further pointed out that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences be utilized not only for traditional cooperation in the fields of economics and politics, but also as a "pioneering forum for dialogue on regional security arrangements."

Said he: "Indeed, APEC is an economic forum. But with its variety of participants, the dialogue and cooperation on economic ... and cultural matters in this institution will in turn encourage mutual understanding and communications in the field of politics and security."

Mr. Sambuaga, who is the current vice-chairman of the Indonesian Parliament's defense, foreign affairs, and information commission, said that if "accurate settlement" can be achieved, then the potential conflict with which the Spratly Islands pose won't become a "serious factor of stability and security in the region."

The Spratly Islands are claimed in whole or in part by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Recently, however, some claimants are worried on China's reported arms build-up and its decision to establish a Maritime Act which claims the islands and waters of Spratly as its own territory. It will be recalled that the situation became more dangerous when the navies of China and Vietnam had a skirmish over the islands in 1988.

"Spratly reminds the Southeast Asian countries of China's aggressive policy which had threatened the region's stability during the early 1980s," noted Mr. Sambuaga.

All claimant countries, with the exception of Brunei, have placed patrol stations and troops in some locations on the islands which each of them considered as strategic points.

To maintain peace and stability in the region, Mr. Sambuaga suggested that the United States continue to maintain a strong presence in the Asia Pacific. "The existence of the United States is needed, not because it is the only remaining superpower which has various interests in all corners of the world, but many countries in Southeast Asia will benefit if they (United States) establish their presence here. It does not mean that the United States has to return to Subic and Clark or to establish new military bases in Southeast Asia," he said.

The Indonesian official said it is "difficult" to assess whether or not the end of the Cold War and the departure of the United States from the country, or even that of Russia from Vietnam, "have caused a power vacuum in the region."

American presence in the region, he said, will also help accelerate the efforts of the Southeast Asian countries "smoothen" their process of modernization and industrialization through technology transfer and other forms of exchanges.

Given Washington's sophisticated military capacity level and the rapid advancement of war technology, Mr. Sambuaga believes that distance and time won't become obstacles for the United States when mobilizing and deploying troops "in any place in the Asia Pacific whenever it is required to do so."

Congress Approves P330 Billion Budget for 1994

BK2212064293 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Dec 93 pp 1, 8

[By Mario Casayuran]

[Text] Congress, in approving the 1994 P330 [Philippine pesos] billion national budget late Friday night, handed to President Ramos a P1.2 billion Countryside Development Fund (CDF) described by a House leader as "a strategic reserve to meet urgent requirements of less developed provinces."

After days of bickering between senators and congressmen on the CDF issue, the Senate and the House of Representatives also set aside P2.9 billion in CDF in the budget for themselves.

Senator Blas F. Ople said the increased CDF of the president is on top of Malacanang's [presidential office] share of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) proceeds, through the social fund, the contingency fund, and the calamity fund which were also increased in the budget.

The budget is thus "kinder to the president" than to both legislative chambers, said Ople, a member of the bicameral conference committee that shaped the government's expenditure program.

The national expenditure program as passed by Congress brought down the Executive Department-prepared 1994 P362-billion budget to P330 billion despite last-ditch efforts by the president, such as talking to 20 of the 23 senators during a dinner which he tendered at Malacanang, to win approval of the proposed amount.

Of the P32-billion budget cut, P9 billion was taken away from the programmed portion, P2.5 billion from the unprogrammed P10-billion portion, and P21 billion from the proposed P117.6 billion debt service, according to Senators Ople and Ernesto F. Herrera who belong to the political opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] (LDP) party.

Senator Ernesto M. Maceda maintained that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) increased the 1994 budget by P53 billion over the 1993 budget, knowing that the Senate would make deep cuts because of the sluggish revenue collection performance of various government agencies.

The amount of P2.9 billion allotted for CDF although 13 senators led by Senate President Pro Tempore Leticia Ramos Shahani had earlier signed a Senate resolution seeking the deletion of the CDF to help reduce the projected P50-billion deficit based on the Malacanang-proposed 1994 P362-billion budget.

"We trust this will not be used as a pork barrel by the president," according to Ople who did not sign the Senate resolution of his 13 colleagues passed by the Upper Chamber during the nine-day Senate floor debate on the budget.

"I do not believe that the CDF is a pork barrel because I see it as a countervailing protection for the needs of the poorest districts. If it is, in fact, a form of pork barrel, then you know who is getting the lion's share of it," Ople added.

Under the CDF allocation, each senator will get P18 million while each House member will get P12.5 million. The vice president was allotted P20 million in CDF. Including the amount allocated to the president, the total CDF appropriation in the 1994 national budget is P4.2 billion.

The bicameral conference committee that hammered out the final shape of next year's budget agreed to give the president a P1.2-billion CDF by adding P700 million more from his 1993 CDF.

"In fairness to the president, this probably compensates for the mandatory reserves which Congress took away," Ople explained.

"We raised the president's calamity fund from P1.6 billion to P2 billion, on the understanding that the difference will be used to mitigate the typhoon damage to the Bicol region which has been struck twice and where devastation is widespread," the senator from Bulacan added.

Herrera and Ople said senators have been falsely accused of voting themselves P100 million each in, additional pork barrel. "This is a myth, because most of these were used to restore cuts in the different departments and there will be no constraints on the heads of these departments to spend these funds within the framework of their own priorities and goals," Ople said.

During the bicameral conference committee meeting on the budget, Ople recalled that he questioned the special allocation to the president but Representative Rolando Andaya, committee co-chairman, refused to yield, claiming "the president would feel the pressures of governors and mayors to augment their own limited resources, especially in the light of the new demands from the devolution of services to local governments."

"But I also required a pledge that this allocation will not be used for partisan purposes, although I was probably being too optimistic as well as simplistic," Ople said.

"We are hoping that the president will use this to push through local projects of lasting economic value, rather than as a political kitty or largesse for his party men," Ople said, adding that releases of these funds should be made on the basis of clear priorities, not party loyalties.

The allocation to Malacanang will not appear as a lump sum in the budget because its components are distributed over a broad range of agencies and departments "but the total allocation definitely amounts to P1.2 billion," Ople said.

Counterinsurgency Role of Armed Forces Extended

BK2112123293 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] The Philippine National Police [PNP] is supposed to take over counterinsurgency operations from the

Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] next year. Due to logistical problems, however, the president has delayed the PNP's assumption of operations. Instead, the PNP will assume the task by 1995. As a result of this development, the AFP will remain the lead agency to handle counterinsurgency operations nationwide until the end of 1994. In view of the weakening communist threat, the president reiterated that the AFP is still the primary defender of the republic:

[Begin Ramos recording in progress, in English] ...and all others in the peace process, for the benefits of the improving situation in the countryside are now felt more than ever. The government must remain ever-vigilant in its responses to continued internal threats and risks. To this end, and in consideration of certain logistical constraints, I have authorized the extension for one more year—up to 31 December 1994—of the retention by the Armed Forces of the Philippines of the primary responsibility for the maintenance of internal security, with the Philippine National Police in a supporting role. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said the PNP needs more time to prepare to take over counterinsurgency operations:

[Begin de Villa recording in progress, in English] ...the problems of the PNP and some of the priority attention, particularly with respect to crime prevention and crime control. So I believe this is better for everybody, because by and large the PNP is still trying to build up its own capability. [end recording]

MNLF To Help Capture 'Muslim Terrorists'

BK2212043293 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], gave assurances today that his regular MNLF troops will help capture Muslim terrorists hiding in their territory in Mindanao.

This was revealed by Ambassador Manuel Yan, government panel chief negotiator, during his conference with Misuari. Misuari relayed to him that the MNLF will arrest these bandits and surrender them to government authorities. Yan added that the MNLF also plans to help quell criminal syndicates like the Abu Sayaf Group, which operates in Mindanao.

According to Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, they have decided to postpone the start of the peace negotiations next week.

CPP-Europe Breaks Away From CPP Leadership

BK2212064093 Quezon City MALAYA in English 19 Dec 93 pp 1, 6

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] Members of the Communist Party of the Philippines' [CPP] regional organization in Europe declared yesterday their formal break from the leadership of Jose Ma. Sison, alleged CPP head, as it expressed apprehension over the party's recent announcement that it would subject four former members to a trial before a "people's court."

In a document titled "Declaration of Autonomy of the CPP Organization in Europe from the Liwanag Central Committee," which was faxed to newspaper offices in Manila, the group said, "We are particularly alarmed over the threat to the very lives of several kasamas [comrades] who have been issued 'charge sheets' and will be tried in so-called people's courts by the Liwanag group."

Armando Liwanag is Sison's alleged pseudonym.

The breakaway group accused the party leadership of conducting a "vicious, all-out purge of critical members" and publicly attacking them as counterrevolutionaries, renegades, and enemy agents.

Such a practice, it said, goes against "the most basic norms of justice and decency."

The group reiterated its dedication to the "best traditions of socialism and communism" but said it was also opposing dogmatism.

"In the changing world and in the changing time we must adapt accordingly or sink like a stone," it said.

But the faction emphasized it continues to adhere to the program and constitution of the National Democratic Front [NDF].

But unlike the Liwanag group, it said, "We continue to believe that revolution is necessary and realizable for the people's liberation and social transformation in the Philippines but we do not equate revolution only with armed struggle."

It also urged all those who have broken ranks with the Liwanag leadership to join up with other "socialist-oriented movements" and work closely together.

NDF-Europe members who have broken off from the Sison leadership also condemned the party's decision to try Ricardo Reyes, Arturo Tabara, Romulo Kintanar, and Felimon Lagman by a people's court. Byron Bocar and Sixto Carlos Jr. said they would hold Liwanag and the executive committee of the CPP responsible "for whatever terrible consequences" the trial of the four would bring.

"If they are still in control of their sense, they should disengage from this mockery and madness now before Liwanag takes us all over the brink," they said.

Summary Execution of CPP Renegades Ordered

BK2212055493 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Dec 93 p 6

[By Dario Agnote]

[Text] A communist faction under its exiled leader Jose Ma. Sison has handed down an order to execute 20 to 50 breakaway communist leaders, according to a military intelligence report. A The report, entitled "Insurgency Situation as of 18 November 1993," also said one of the breakaway leaders, Felimon Lagman, has formed his own armed group to fight against the pro-Sison faction.

The report said Sison himself has ordered the "summary execution" of "renegade" communist leaders.

At the top of Sison's hit list are Lagman and three other breakaway leaders who publicly announced they were splitting from the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] under the leadership of Sison.

Aside from Lagman who heads a faction of the Manila-Rizal CPP committee, those on top of the list are Romulo Kintanar, former chief of the New People's Army; Ricardo Reyes, former CPP secretary general; and Arturo Tabara, head of the CPP's Visayas Commission.

The report boosts fears expressed by the breakaway leaders that Sison, who is in self-exile in Utrecht, will order their execution for disloyalty to his leadership.

Gregorio Rosal, communist chief in Quezon, said in a recent interview that the pro-Sison faction has decided to charge the breakaway leaders with anti-party offenses and oust them from the CPP.

Rosal, who uses the alias Ka [Comrade] Roger, said criminal charges have been filed in communist "people's courts" against the breakaway leaders.

The charges include embezzlement, immorality and connivance with anti-communist politicians. Rosal had refused to answer questions whether an order for the breakaway leaders execution has been approved.

The military document marked confidential, also bared that Sison has replaced the leadership of Lagman with a caretaker committee which will supervise the Manila-Rizal committee of the CPP.

Lagman, Reyes, Tabara and Kintanar were ordered purge from the party by Sison.

Appointed head of the caretaker committee was Adelberto Silva. The military document said Silva is believed to have a strong following among communist rebels in Manila, Kalookan and Makati.

Appointed members of the committee were Nestor Ansay, the head of the National Youth and Student Bureau of the CPP's National Organization Commission; Benjamin Lazaro, a ranking member of committee; and three others who were only known by their aliases—Boogie of the National Trade Union Bureau, Vener and Bogs.

"Recent developments indicate that the executive committee and the central committee through the... caretaker committee will increase the level of their conflict," said the document [ellipses as published].

"The level of tension could be confrontational especially in the student-youth and labor sector," the document added.

The report also said that the faction led by Lagman created a group of 50 "seasoned and highly disciplined combat operatives" which were recruited from Western Visayas, Southern Tagalog and Central Mindanao.

According to the report, the group is assisted by an explosives unit tasked to bomb selected places in Metro Manila.

Roundup of Rebel Activities for 11-17 Dec

BK2112070093

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of reports of Philippine rebel activities from Philippine media monitored by Bangkok bureau from 11-17 December. Source information is given in parentheses at the end of each item.

11-13 December

No fileworthy items monitored.

14 December

Policemen captured Romeo Tejada alias Comrade Jovy and Comrade George, a top New People's Army [NPA] leader, who is also an executive member of the NPA's partisan committee of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee. Tejada was meeting with union leaders in a resort when nabbed by Laguna policemen. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN p B-30)

15-17 December

No fileworthy items monitored.

Thailand

Changes in Charter Upset Military Officers

BK2112032793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Dec 93 pp A1, A2

[Excerpts] For fear of losing their political clout the military is opposed to any attempt to amend the Constitution to give politicians, instead of the prime minister, the right to nominate and appoint senators.

Several military leaders see this proposed charter amendment, along with another proposal to ban active permanent officials from becoming senators as an attempt to prevent the generals from getting senate posts.

Speaking to The Nation, the generals said they saw nothing wrong in soldiers dominating the Senate as they would be professional enough to switch hats once inside Parliament.

However, they acknowledged—some directly and others indirectly—that changing the way senators were appointed would reduce the military's share of the political pie.

They fear the new measure to appoint senators would destroy the system in which the top brass repay their subordinates' loyalty by nominating them to the senate posts—and thus deprive the military senators of extra income as parliamentarians. Currently, senators get Bt30,000 [Baht] a month. [passage omitted]

The three armed forces were known to divide the majority share of Senate seats among themselves under a traditional formula of 2:1:1 for the army, air force and the navy.

Traditionally, a joint committee of senior officials from the three armed forces would be set up to screen military senate nominees put forward by the army, navy and air force chiefs. That committee always approved the top brass' choices.

The three armed forces also gave a small share of senate seats to powerless Supreme Command officials. Usually the supreme commander, his deputy and the armed forces chief of staff and a few senior officers would be made senators. [passage omitted]

Air Force Deputy Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Prachum Chaisiri regards the proposal as an attempt to prevent soldiers from being appointed to the Senate.

"It's not right to amend the charter only to block the military [from becoming senators]," Prachum railed when asked to comment on the proposal. Prachum added that there should be nothing wrong with allowing military officers to become senators.

"We have been carrying out out duties as senators and are worth the money we get," Prachum said.

Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff AM [Air Marshal] Prachoen Bunnak vowed to strongly oppose the charter amendment. "I will be 100 per cent against the proposal to allow political parties to nominate senators," Prachoen said.

"That would lead to a parliamentary dictatorship. There would be only the same gang in Parliament. This needs strong objection. I don't think academics agree with this proposal."

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen Charun Phunsanong said if senators are nominated by political parties, there would be no need to have a Senate.

"If senators come from nominations by MPs or political parties, I don't think we need a Senate," Charun said. "Why don't we make MPs concurrently senators?" Charun said he did not disagree with the proposal to reduce the number of senators, but it was not right to have them come from party nominations.

Permanent Secretary for Defence Suwit Chanpradit said he would not be against the proposals to reduce the number and power of senators.

"But it needs further discussion on how senators should be appointed," Suwit said.

Navy Chief of Staff Adm Surawut Maharom said senators could not be called senators if they were appointed by political parties.

"I won't regard a Senate with members from political parties or MPs' nominations as a Senate," Surawut said.

Surawut said military senators should not be regarded with prejudice.

"Don't see us as trying to block the work of the administration or MPs. We have not been appointed to support somebody or to be against certain people. We have been appointed for the country's interest.

"We have not been holding our posts for nothing. We also work. We have been trying to point out legal loopholes which others might not see." [passage omitted]

Royal Thai Fleet Commander Adm Uran Mongkolnawin said the political system would be endangered if political parties were allowed to nominate and appoint senators.

Uran said wealthy but unscrupulous people would buy their way into the Senate through political parties.

"[But] all senators don't need to be soldiers," Uran said.

"But they have to be permanent officials who come from the prime ministers' nomination. They are capable people who know how to solve the country's problems unlike merchants who tend to seek vested or personal interest."

He said if senators come from political nominations, the Senate would become only a rubber stamp for the House of Representatives.

Uran said he was also against an earlier charter amendment which required that the prime minister be an MP.

The amendment was passed along with three other points following the May bloodshed.

Meeting To Solve Lao Border Dispute Begins

BK2212015393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Dec 93 p A4

[Excerpts] Thailand and Laos begin a three-day special meeting in Vientiane today in an attempt to resolve their unsettled border dispute.

The Thai-Laos Joint Boundary Committee talks are co-chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan and his Laotian counterpart Vice Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat.

They will focus on the dispute over Ban Rom Klao in Phitsanulok province which Thailand claims is in Chatrakam district on Thai soil.

Vientiane says it is in its Sayaboury province.

Because of the dispute, Thailand and Laos engaged in a border war for several months beginning in late 1987.[passage omitted]

Both sides say they strongly desire a resolution of the Ban Rom Klao dispute and some 40 other unsettled points along the 1,740 km border area.

But progress is marred by misunderstanding and doubts of Thailand's sincerity.

Thailand prefers to discuss all disputes along the entire border.

But it is expected to comply with Vientiane's wishes and focus on Ban Rom Klao.

In August a joint technical survey team visited the area but neither side could agree on a report to be submitted to the talks today in Vientiane. Another survey is being planned, but the two countries have yet to agree on a date.

"The problem is deeply rooted and resolution of the conflicts will probably take some time," said Thongsi Inthaphon, deputy minister of the Laotian PM's Office.

He added that bilateral relations could be better if problems on border demarcation are resolved and Vientiane is confident that Thailand no longer supports Lao insurgents.

Agreement With Burma To Increase Flights

BK2212081093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Thailand and the Union of Myanmar [Burma] have agreed to increase flights on the Bangkok-Yangon [Rangoon] route. The frequency of the flights by each side will be increased from five to seven a week, with the capacity increased from 988 to 1,253 seats a week. The agreement was acknowledged by the cabinet this week as proposed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The ministry said the agreement is in accordance with the present condition. It will enable Thai Airways International to fly five times a week with AB-6 aircraft to Yangon. At the same time, the Myanmar national airline will also be able to fly seven times a week with B-757 aircraft to Bangkok. The increase in the air services will enable both Thai and Myanmar national airlines to cope with the growing demand.

Vietnam

Diplomatic Activities in 1993 Reviewed

BK2112140393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In 1993, Vietnamese diplomatic activities were deployed in almost all parts of the world with the participation of Vietnamese leaders of all levels from party and state to mass and nongovernmental organizations. The targets of these activities are to open the door wide to receive capital, technology, and managerial skills from foreign countries.

The results of these efforts so far are worth examining. Here is our radio editor's opinion on Vietnam diplomatic activities in 1993.

The most important result achieved is that the country has been integrating in the regional and international community. In Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, Vietnam's diplomatic activities have been fruitful. Vietnamese party leader Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet have visited many countries in the region and been state guests of ASEAN countries, China, Japan, and Australia.

Singapore, Thailand, and other ASEAN countries have assured the party leader Do Muoi that they will consolidate and develop their cooperation with Vietnam. Mr. Do Muoi reaffirmed Vietnam's foreign policy to give priority to relations with neighboring countries, including ASEAN, on the basis of equality, cooperation, mutual benefit and respect. This contributed to build the cooperative atmosphere between Vietnam and countries in the region.

The visit to Japan, South Korean, and Northeastern Asia, New Zealand and Australia in the South Pacific by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet completed the process of improving Vietnam's relations in the Asia-Pacific region where Vietnam has close and long-term political and economic interests.

In 1993, Western European countries were busy with their own unification and economic difficulties. However, the Vietnamese prime minister was warmly welcomed in Paris, Bonn, and Brussels. His visit was aimed at consolidating relations between Vietnam and Western Europe to pave the way for long-term economic investment and trade relations.

The visit to Vietnam by French President Francois Mitterrand early in 1993 was the symbol of full conciliation between Vietnam and France which open the way for other important visits to Vietnam by leaders of West European countries. They were many meetings between Vietnamese and U.S. senior leaders in 1993. The latest meeting between Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Van Khai and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the United States contributed to mutual understanding and made concrete progress in the normalization of relations between the two countries.

All of these diplomatic activities have a direct impact on the breakthrough of relations between Vietnam and international financial institutions such as the IMF, or International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. And it was one of the important motivating forces encouraging the Conference of Donor Countries which was held in Paris last month and decided to finance Vietnam 1.6 billion U.S. dollars.

Now Vietnam has many new friends from far and near, but it still maintains its relations with old friends. The visit to Cuba by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and the visit to Vietnam by the Palestinian Liberation Organization President Yasir 'Arafat have made both Cuban leader Fidel Castro and the PLO leader set great store in Vietnam's loyalty and they highly valued Vietnam's renovation process.

The official visit to Vietnam by the First and Second Prime Ministers of Cambodia Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen, and the visit to Laos by Vietnamese State President Le Duc Anh have accelerated close friendship and neighborliness between Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

The working visit to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam contributed to promoting relations between Vietnam and those countries. The visits by Vietnamese Vice Premier Mr. Nguyen Khanh to countries in the Persian Gulf and Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai to South America have brought Vietnam new friends and helped Vietnam seek cooperation and new markets in the region.

These successes of Vietnam in its diplomatic activities in 1993 show the correctness of Vietnam's renovation policy and diversified diplomatic policy advanced five years ago. It is a stable basis ensuring social and political stability in Vietnam.

Vietnam has the task of building a strong country and prosperous people living in a civilized society with cooperative and friendly relations with all countries, and integrating in the region and world community. Vietnam's diplomatic activities in 1993 were aimed at these objectives.

Party Journal Warns of Foreign Influence

BK2212133993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Article by Dan Thong in the December 1993 issue of TAP CHI CONG SAN: "An Important Task in the Struggle Against Peaceful Evolution"]

[Text] Following the disintegration of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and other East European communist parties, which led to the crumbling of the socialist regime in those countries, hostile forces have intensified their campaign to oppose and sabotage the communist parties in the remaining socialist countries. They have resorted to many sophisticated, cunning, brutal, and shameful tricks aimed at eradicating the rule of the communist parties.

They are fully aware that the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] is the nerve center of the working class and the laboring people of Vietnam, that the CPV is the one who is guiding Vietnam toward socialism, and that only by destroying the communist party's rule can they eradicate Marxism-Leninism and the thought of Ho Chi Minh and destroy socialism in Vietnam so as to reorient our country toward capitalism.

In their current sabotage activities against our party, hostile forces have repeatedly advanced many distorted, slanderous, and defamatory critical allegations against our party leadership. They have asked how our party, with only 2 million members, can allow itself the right to rule over 66 million people. They also claim that only with a multi-party system can they destroy the arbitrary rule of the communist party. They say that a society under constitutional party rule can in no way become one genuinely governed by law, and so forth. They are in fact demanding the eradication of all the constitutional and lawful stipulations regarding the CPV's right to rule. They are demanding that the party give up its seat in favor of a national council.

They have paid great attention to changing the people's minds over the leadership role of the Communist Party, trying to make them belittle it and feel that there is no need for the party leadership in the market system. They are making tremendous efforts to cause a rift in the Party and break its unity ideologically and in terms of its performance.

In the past, they concentrated on advancing allegations that deny the role of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought so that the theoretical basis and the ideology of our party would be rejected. They believe that our ideology is an erroneous and illusionary concept which is devoid of any realistic character. As for the party leadership, they argue that there will be no democracy with a ruling party and the party's principles of democratic centralism are only a means to deny democratic principles.

Aware that remarkable achievements have been recorded by us in our renovation process, they are seeking ways, both in theory and practice, to make people lose their confidence in socialism and gradually change course for capitalism. They have advanced nonsensical arguments that the renovation process can in no way resolve anything. In particular, they have demanded that the party renounce its ruling role in order to allow for the free development of the market economy and society, no matter what this society may be like.

It is worthy of note that to carry out the peaceful evolution process successfully, hostile forces have, on the one hand, refused to give up their armed, rebellious, and subversive measures whenever opportunities have permitted, and have, on the other hand, paid great attention to conducting sabotage attacks to effect a change within the internal ranks of our party and state. A vital goal of decisive importance in their attempts to cause disintegration in our party and to overthrow our administration is to effect changes from within our ranks.

Under the renovation conditions, our party and state has constantly broadened its multifaceted cooperation with all countries to spur the development of the market system in the socialist direction while broadening democracy to suit the new development trend. This has created an opportunity for hostile forces to seek to infiltrate and launch attacks on our ranks.

The targets for influence usually selected by hostile forces are party cadres and members from different party and government organs, especially those from administrative organs, production, and foreign trade units; and those who are not firm ideologically and weak politically, the discontented, those who tend to seek material gain, and those who indulge themselves in a carefree, debauched way of life.

They have paid specific attention to cadres in charge of foreign economic relations, advisory tasks, and strategic planning for major policies, and those doing scientific and technical jobs in spearhead sectors. They have resorted to many sophisticated and shameful tricks, such as establishing direct contact, organizing meetings to exchange views, making inquiries about documentary information, finding excuses to travel here and there to make deep inroads into our ranks, and inviting our officials to go to their countries for work, especially under various economic, training, and educational programs. In this way, they will strive to erode our ideological and political stance and at the same time they will use material means to buy out our men and cause them to become debauched and deviate.

In their attempt to seduce and bribe our cadres and party members, they not only seek people working in the party organs but also people from government offices inside and outside the country, especially those who have to make contacts with foreigners. They would take advantage of negative phenomena in our internal affairs. They would even exploit the slogan of anticorruption to attack and discredit the party's reputation and sow division between the people and the party.

In the past, the peaceful evolution activities of the hostile forces have had certain ideological, political, social, and lifestyle effects on some cadres, party members, and on some of the public. This has increased the negative activities in our society.

Our party and state have had policies and measures to counter the peaceful evolution of the hostile forces to protect the party, state, regime, and our people's renovation undertaking. However, this counterattack is not as it should be in many fields; worse still, in some areas it is seriously weak, uncoordinated, and without vigilance.

In examining the peaceful evolution conspiracies and the tricks of the hostile forces in our country as well as their successes in destroying communist parties in European countries and the USSR, we see that the effect of peaceful evolution is like a type of virus which can destroy life in the party's body. In order to ensure a successful fight against the peaceful evolution, we must satisfactorily perform the following tasks:

1. Propagandize and educate the entire party and people so that everybody can understand the conspiracies and tricks of the hostile forces and realize the urgent requirements of the fight against them. In particular, it is necessary to make cadres and party members fully realize that the current party protection work and the internal political protection work are very necessary and fundamental for political stabilization and socioeconomic development.

2. Confirm that party protection is a fundamental duty of this fight. The protection of the party is not limited to party organs only but applies to other organs which are under the party leadership, especially government offices and cadre protection offices.

3. Strengthen the ideological and political fight, criticizing incorrect conceptions of Maxist-Leninism and socialism and the leadership role of the Communist Party against the democratic and human rights issues in order to protect and develop the party's theoretical foundation in politics and ideology.

4. Strengthen and perfect the internal political protection forces, quickly dealing with any problems, and applying active and efficient measures to prevent them.

5. Consolidate and strengthen cadres through challenges in reality. Besides improving their specialized skills, it is necessary to ensure and enhance their political quality, which is shown in their political awareness; sense of responsibility; and consciousness of organization, discipline, and revolutionary vigilance. Any incorrect political conceptions, degradation in quality and morality, and violations of the law by cadres must be promptly dealt with.

6. Every level and echelon needs to strengthen checks on the implementation of the regulations and guidelines on internal political protection. This needs to be performed regularly and promptly, together with active measures to prevent loopholes and mistakes that might happen in our internal affairs. This is to protect our organizations and cadres, successfully stopping the conspiracies and actions aimed at sabotaging our organizations by hostile forces.

Economic Ties With ROK Show Bright Prospects

BK2112143593 Hanoi VNA in English 1352 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 21—The relations between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea have seen rapid development in various fields over the past several years, especially since the establishment of the two countries' diplomatic relations one year ago (Dec. 22), says the Army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in an article today. Highlighting prominent results in the economic cooperation between Hanoi and Seoul, the article says that in 1992, their bilateral trade turn-over reached USD 493 million, up by 105 per cent over the previous year, and it is estimated to reach USD 756 million this year. By the end of 1992, only 17 economic projects with a total capital of USD 150 million of South Korean companies had been licensed in Vietnam. But one year later the number of projects totalled 47 with a combined investment capital of USD 402.7 million. Of the projects, 35 are involved in industry. More than 40 groups and firms from South Korea have entered into Vietnam for investment and trade. Worthy of note is that most of the big groups like Samsung, Hyundai, Daewoo, Lucky-Goldstar, Posco, etc. are doing business in Vietnam. More than 40 groups and firms of South Korea have entered into Vietnam for investment and trade. Worthy of note is that most of the big groups like Samsung, Hyundai, Daewo, Lucky-Goldstar, Posco, etc. are doing business in Vietnam. Daewoo takes the lead with 7 projects capitalized 331.1 million US dollars, including the Orion-Hanoi project to produce TV picture tubes (170 million US dollars) which is one of the ten biggest foreign invested projects in Vietnam (excluding projects on oil and gas). The South Korean top groups are discussing dozens of investment projects totaling hundreds of millions of US dollars with their Vietnamese partners. South Korea highly valuing the role of Vietnam in the region, plans to give to Vietnam first priority in its economic cooperation and aid to foreign countries. At the donors' conference on Vietnam last November in Paris, South Korea announced a soft loan of 50 million US dollars to Vietnam, and some 9-million US dollars grant aid in several years to come, the article says.

Le Duc Anh Greets Akihito on Birthday

BK2212144593 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—President Le Duc Anh today sent a message of greetings to King Akihito of Japan on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

In his message, the Vietnamese president expressed his satisfaction at the fine development of the Vietnam-Japan relations and his belief that the relations would continue to be consolidated and strengthened.

The message goes on:

'I wish the king good health and the Japanese people prosperity and happiness. May the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Japan further develop in the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability and prosperity in the Asian- Pacific region and the world as a whole'.

Scientific Association Set Up in Russia

BK2112073393 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 21—The Vietnam Scientific Technological Association in Russia was set up at a congress held in Moscow on Dec. 18.

Prof. Ha Phuoc Trac, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and president of the Vietnam Union of Scientific-Technological Association Ho Huan Nghiem, Vietnamese ambassador to Russia and a number of Vietnamese overseas scientists attended the congress.

The aims of the association are, among other things to help Vietnamese scientists in Russia in conducting scientific and technological activities in service of key projects in Vietnam promoting their cooperation with scientific organiztions and scientists in Russia and other countries.

At the congress, Prof. Ha Phuoc Trac and Ambassador Ho Huan Nghiem expressed the Vietnames State's concern about the activities of Vietnamese scientists at home and abroad, and its hope that they would make more contributions to developments in the homeland.

World Bank Funds Allocated for Agriculture

BK2212080993 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—The government has agreed to allocate to the agricultural sector USD 100 million from World Bank loans for rural structure change. Of the funding, USD 50 million will go to the rural credit program. Agricultural promotion will get 12 million and 30 million will be provided for development of rubber planting. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, to increase farmers' income from 1.5 to two times in 2000, it is essential to change agricultural production structure. Accordingly, the ratio of food plant value should be dropped from the current 75 per cent to 50 per cent while the proportion of industrial crop should be raised from 10 per cent to 30 per cent,and stock breeding, from 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

To this end, the state will, in the 1994-1995 period, focus on seeking overseas outlets for vegetables and fruit, and on the introduction of new high-yielding rice strains and advanced farming techniques. In response to the central policy for economic structure and the provincial programme for rural development, the agricultural development bank in An Giang in the Mekong River delta has invested 31 billion dong (about USD 3 million) in the form of credit loans for development of traditional trades and of mid-term loans for agricultural production projects.

Quang Binh Officials Meet Local Clergymen

BK2112081393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] To mark the upcoming Christmas celebration, the party committee, people's committee, and Vietnam Fatherland Front in Quang Binh held a get-together with clergymen in the province.

At the gathering, provincial leaders heartily welcomed positive contributions of Catholics in national construction, especially the Movement for Better Life, Better Religion and activities to alleviate local poverty. The clergymen thanked the government officials for creating favorable conditions for them to improve their material and spiritual life and to perform their charity work to prove their worship of Jesus and their love for the nation.

Catholic Solidarity Committee Holiday Greetings

BK2212075793 Hanoi VNA in English 0558 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—The Vietnam Committee for Solidarity of Catholics has extended its greetings in an open letter to all Vietnamese Catholics at home and abroad on the occasion of Christmas 1993. The letter says among other things: "The warm winds of change for the better over the past year have brought enthusiasm and confidence to all Vietnamese Catholics. They are free to practise their religion. Many churches and other places of worship have been refurbished, new priests have been ordained and assigned to various dioceses, seminaries are allowed to enroll students once every two years, many priests and seminary students have been sent to foreign countries for further training, medical treatment or conferences, and the Catholic community has been more committed to social and humanitarian activities. Catholics are really part of the national community and are building a congregation closely associated with the destiny of the nation. Bright examples of devotion to the cause of Christ and the country can be found everywhere." The letter also calls upon the Vietnamese Catholics to uphold the tradition of devotion to God and love of the motherland, thus contributing to building a civilised society and happy families.

Australia

Government Provides Further Aid for Somalia

BK1312063493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The Australian Government is providing a further $3 million in aid for Somalia. The money will be given to United Nations agencies and Australian relief agencies who are continuing their attempts to alleviate problems in the African countries caused by both drought and war. Australia has contributed more than Australian $11 million in aid to Somalia since 1991.

Papua New Guinea

Minister Confirms Troops Advancing on Panguna

BK2212060893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] In Papua New Guinea, government troops on the island of Bougainville are reported to have advanced toward the abandoned Panguna copper mine.

The defense minister, Paul Tohian, has confirmed the troops were advancing toward the township which served the copper mine. The Australian company, the CRA, closed the mine in the late 1988 when a dispute with land owners over royalty payments flared into rebellion which led to the withdrawal of government troops from the island.

Claims by Australian groups earlier this week that the government would launch an offensive today aimed at retaking the mine were described as propaganda by a spokesman for the PNG minister responsible for Bougainville, Michael Ogio.

The prime minister, Paias Wingti, has said he wants the mine to be under government control by the end of this year.

Plan To Recapture Mine Denied

BK2112062693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] The Government in Papua New Guinea has dismissed claims by Australian groups that it is to launch an offensive tomorrow aimed at recapturing the Panguna copper mine on Bougainville. The spokesperson for the PNG minister for Bougainville affairs, Michael Ogio, described the plan as propaganda.

The Australian groups, which include supporters of the Bougainville rebel movement, claim the offensive will involve the use of helicopters supplied by Canberra to the PNG military. They have also asked the Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, to intervene but his office says it has received no information about any attack.

The Bougainville rebel movement emerged in 1989 because of discontent among land owners over their unsuccessful demands for royalties from the mine's owner, the Australian company, CRA.